# Daily Report

# Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-023
Thursday
3 February 1994

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*FBIS-SOV-94-023* *3 February 1994*

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## Russia To Sponsor CIS Laws at Interparliamentary Assembly

*MK0202150994 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 2 Feb 94 p 2*

[Yelena Tregubova report under the "CIS" rubric: "Federation Council Delegation to Interparliamentary Assembly Named. 'Russia Remains Main Sponsor of Legislation'"]

[Text] The Federation Council has prepared a list of its representatives to attend the upcoming meeting of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly [IPA]. The delegation will apparently include Federation Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko; Vadim Gustov, chairman of the Federation Council's committee for CIS affairs; Yevgeniy Pavlov, his deputy; and Viktor Stepanov, Federation Council member and chairman of the Karelian Supreme Soviet.

Vadim Gustov recalled that the meeting of CIS parliamentary heads at St. Petersburg on 8-9 February will focus on the election of an Interparliamentary Assembly chairman "to replace the departed Ruslan Khasbulatov." According to Gustov, reports that Vladimir Shumeyko has recently offered the post of "CIS speaker" to the "fired" Stanislav Shushkevich "do not square with reality, because this post can only be held by an acting head of parliament." He said that "talk about Shushkevich took place before all the recent events."

The chairman of the Federation Council's committee for CIS affairs listed legislative enactments that would be worked out under "Russia's sponsorship." Some of them are based on the CIS "Treaty on Collective Security" (many provisions of which Stanislav Shushkevich opposed as speaker of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet); they include enactments on the procedure for imposing martial law on CIS territory, "On Mobilization," "On the Procedure for the Development, Production, Testing, and Delivery of Armaments and Military Hardware," and so forth.

The IPA plenary session scheduled for the beginning of March will set up a number of commissions which, the CIS committee chairman assured, "Russia will join, bringing all its ideas along, because in the light of its experience it has always been and will be the main source and drafter of legislation within the CIS."

## CIS Assembly To Debate Chairman Position

*LD0202155994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1454 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[By Belinform correspondent Larisa Klychnikova for TASS]

[Text] Minsk February 2 TASS—A meeting of the parliamentary assembly of the CIS will be held in the Tavria Palace in St. Petersburg on February 8-9. The delegations will be represented by heads of parliament of CIS countries. The assembly will concentrate on debating the candidature of chairman of the interparliamentary assembly, Ivan Korotchenya, executive secretary of the CIS, told BELINFORM. Korotchenya does not rule out the possibility of Ivan Rybkin or of Vladimir Shumeyko, Russian representatives, being appointed chairman of the parliamentary assembly.

The 15 items planned to be debated include legal regulation of relations between the CIS countries in the framework of the economic union—coordination and unification of the economic policy and bringing closer legislations of states of the commonwealth.

The meeting will also discuss a long-range plan and results of the interparliamentary group's activity on peace settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh.

## Black Sea Fleet Spokesman on Ukraine Naval Chief's Remarks

*LD0102133094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1114 GMT 1 Feb 94*

[Text] A spokesman for the Black Sea Navy Command has called on Ukrainian naval officials to refrain from "dangerous assessments running counter to the opinion of the Russian and Ukrainian presidents and to the spirit of the Russian-Ukrainian naval accords. [no closing quotation marks as received]

This statement came in reply to a cable addressed to the Naval Headquarters Chief, Vice-Admiral Svyatashov, by his Ukrainian counterpart, Rear-Admiral Ryzhenko, who has described the Black Sea Marine Brigade as "a foreign unit on Ukraine's territory."

The spokesman emphasized that in line with the Yalta agreement, the brigade, like the entire fleet, is subordinate to the Ukrainian president. Thus, Ryzhenko's declaration contradicts the document signed by the president as the Supreme Commander of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

## ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 2 Feb

*LD0202071694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0652 GMT 2 Feb 94*

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on the state of affairs in the Viktor Chernomyrdin cabinet:

"Observers note the consolidation of the positions of Viktor Chernomyrdin who has evolved from a business executive premier to a politician-premier. He is reckoned a person capable of guaranteeing stability in society, which is so importnat to President Boris Yeltsin now. Chernomyrdin is backed, albeit with reservations, by the president, the leaders of regions, autonomous entities, the Federation Council, by many deputies to the State Duma, and by executives of powerful ministries..."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an interview with security Council Secretary Oleg Lobov, who comments on the work of the commission for the certification of the leading personnel of Russia's Federal Counterintelligence Service.

Asked about criteria for the certification of officers, Lobov said: "A thorough selection is under way on the strength of criteria which are applied to counterintelligence service personnel, primarily professional ones.

"The commission takes into account the ability to get one's bearings under new conditions, knowledge, and experience. Political views will also be taken into consideration, of course to judge to what extent a person seeking a job in the newly established service supports the reform policy".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on the demographic situation in Russia.

The newspaper carries an article headlined "A Demographic Disaster Has Become a Reality. According to Even Most Optimistic Forecasts, the Russian Population Decrease Will Not Come to a Stop Earlier Than 1997".

"Owing to discrepancy between mounting mortality and decreasing birth rate, the Russian Federation (particularly its Russian- populated regions) is clearly defined as a country with a population decline. Over the first half of 1993 alone, the population of Russians decreased by 352,000, and the process rapidly accelerates."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on former parliamentary opposition leader's hunger strike:

"Ilya Konstantinov, leader of the National Salvation Front and former leader of the parliamentary opposition, who is kept in the Lefortovo Prison, went on a hunger strike on Tuesday.

"In the morning of January 31, he wrote an application addressed to the investigator and the prosecutor-general, in which he pointed out that, firstly, he was arrestted unlawfully because he was entitled to parliamentary immunity—at any rate, it remained in effect until the latest elections—at the moment of the arrest—and, secondly, there are no investigation proceedings with regard to Kosntantinov..."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an interview with Daoud Barakat, the ambassador of Palestine to the Russian Federation, who touches upon matters concerning the Middle East peace process. His opinion is that "Russian interests in the Middle East are no longer of as great importance to Russia as they used to be. Neverthless Russia is a reliable partner in the Mideast peace process".

IZVESTIYA on the start of elections to local governemnt bodies:

"Penza region has been one of the first to hold the elections. The outcome is disquieting: nomenclatura (former Communist Party and industrial appointees) have gained the upper hand. Forty out of 45 seats in the regional legislature have been gained by former secretaries of Communist Party committees and deputies to the abolished local governing councils, administration chiefs and deputy chiefs, and directors of state farms and factories."

IZVESTIYA on the problem of inflation:

"The rate of inflation somewhat slowed down by the end of January compared to rather high weekly inflation rates recorded at the beginning and the middle of the month. Over the period of January 18 to 25, prices went up by 3.4 percent. Nevertheless the overall inflation rate since the beginning of the year is almost 21 percent"

TRUD runs an interview with former Belarusian parliament chief Stanislav Shushkevich, who said in particular that those who expect a Russian magic wand to save them would "badly miscalculate in the end. I view the merger of the monetary systems as a forced act but still an act of inter-state relations. I do not visualise this merger as surrender of statehood, which government officials maintain in their market-related helplessness"

TRUD carries an interview with Sergey Almazov, director of the tax police department.

"The results of our work are determined not only by the amount of revealed or prevented tax-related offences but also by a real income to the state budget," Almazov said.

"Last year, together with the state taxation service, we spotted and prevented more than 15,000 breaches of tax legislation. We revealed more than 1,000 enterprises and organisations which were not registered in state taxation agencies. It has been estimated that there are 100 roubles of revenue per rouble invested by the state in the maintenance of tax police".

St. Petersburg VEDOMOSTI reports that the Greens Party has won a suit in the regional court against the Leningrad region administration in a demand for the reversal of the decision to allot land for the construction of an Ust Luga merchant seaport.

Ilya Baskin, president of the Garant holding company, which intends to build a seaport at Ust Luga with the aid of investors, believes that the court ruling would not stop the cport construction process but will only make it difficult. The company has filed an appeal with the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation.

## Press Review for 3 Feb

*LD0302073094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0715 GMT 3 Feb 94*

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 3 (ITAR-TASS)—Today's Russian newspapers focus on President Boris Yeltsin's official visit to Georgia.

In this connection, the TRUD newspaper publishes opinions of some Georgian parliament members. All of them point to the importance of Yeltsin's arrival in Tbilisi. "Ruslan Beridze hopes that the sides will find ways for mutually advantageous relations during the visit," the newspaper stresses.

"In addition, Russia, provided there is a desire, can play a decisive role in a just political settlement of the

Abkhazian issue." However, the legislator claims, Georgia's admission to the rouble zone would mean for the republic the loss of a main attribute of an independent state—national currency.

In the opinion of Irina Starishvili, the solution of the Abkhazian-Georgian conflict entirely depends on Russia after Georgia joined the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

However, the legislator is against the rouble zone and believes that, even if Georgia joins it, the state will be unable to narrow the gap between prices and wages.

"The Russian president's visit to Tbilisi may become one of the most difficult trips in Yeltsin's diplomatic career," the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper writes. "The rouble threatens to turn from a 'semi-currency' into a mixture of the Belarusian 'hare' (Eds: the image of a hare is depicted on Belarusian currency) and the Ukrainian coupon.

"Geopolitical successes turn to be futile as soon as attention is focussed on the domestic situation in Russia. Boris Yeltsin goes to the deadend of the Russian policy in the caucasus," the newspaper writes.

"The signing of an agreement on the status of Russian border troops in Georgia will be an important element of the visit," the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper notes. "Let us hope that the agreement will put an end to numerous 'misunderstandings' with respect to Russian servicemen."

The newspaper calls attention to the fact that "short before the arrival of the Russian president, Eduard Shevardnadze issued personal orders to return immediately all flats to Russian Army officers, illegally seized by various armed detachments during the recent strife".

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev stressed in an exclusive interview with the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper on the eve of the Russian president's official visit to Georgia that "the military delegation will raise the question at the talks on the responsibility of nationalist extremist forces whose actions resulted in the death of Russian servicemen".

The presidential elections in the Crimea is another important topic discussed by Russian newspapers. In the opinion of the IZVESTIYA newspaper, "Crimeans saw the way out of the crisis in unification with Russia" by electing Yuriy Meshkov as president.

"The implementaton of Meshkov's election platform—accession to the rouble zone, payment of pensions and wages in roubles, a referendum on the status of the Crimea, solution of the problem of the Black Sea Fleet and Sevastopol and establishment of a new union state—will depend on the extent to which the new president will find a common language with statesmen from Kiev and Moscow and the extent to which his proposals will be economically feasible."

The newspaper stresses that "two issues—the problem of Crimean Tatars and the status of the Crimea—will be sources of tension which the new president will find impossible to avoid or put off".

Touching on the coming meeting between Crimean President Meshkov and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA expresses opinion that "Meshkov ducks the question on the need for holding a Crimean referendum on independence.

"He also avoids the question of concluding a treaty with Russia on duel citizenship. Local analysts believe that the Crimean president will not change anything in relations with Ukraine in order to avoid unnecessary confrontation," the newspaper writes. "It becomes evident that it will be difficult for Meshkov to implement his election promises."

Writing on the same topic, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA notes that "there is no need for dramatising the departure of Bagrov (Eds: Bagrov was a presidential candidate and former speaker of the Crimean parliament before presidential elections) from the political scene.

"Meshkov clearly intimated to journalists and voters the next day after his election as president that his position on the key political and economic problems of the Crimea would not differ much from that of his former rival.

"He does not intend to make a drastic reshuffling of the government and administrative structures as well as to exacerbate relations with Kiev and hence "to join" the Crimea to Russia."

"What is the explanation for the present wave of crime?" This question was addressed to St. Petersburg citizens by the sociological research centre in the city.

As many as 40 per cent of respondents attributed rampant crime to dropping living standards, the same number—to passivity of authorities, 36 per cent—to the loss of ideals and morals and 30 per cent—lack of discipline as well as law and order.

Publishing the results of the poll, the SANKT PETERBURGSKIE VEDOMOSTI newspaper notes that, although citizens did not single out specially one of the reasons, growing numbers of respondents point to the loss of moral ideals with every passing year.

The VECHERNIY PETERBURG newspaper reports that the St. petersburg procurator's office issued a charge against Viktor Kharchenko, the former president of the Baltic shipping line joint stock society.

Despite expectations of his numerous supporters, the ex-president of the joint stock society faces "an array" of articles from the criminal code, providing criminal responsibility for abuse of power and office, negligence, forgery, evasion of tax payments in large sums and, last but not least, embezzlement of state and public property on a large scale.

## Military Review Aims at Keeping U.S. 'No. 1 Superpower'

*PM0202161594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Feb 94 p 3*

[Observer Manki Ponomarev article: "In Search of a New Strategy"]

[Text] Last summer the U.S. Defense Department published an extensive report entitled "Cardinal Review of the Armed Forces' Structure." At the time analysts perceived it as a document setting forth the main provisions of a new U.S. military doctrine and military strategy.

In time, however, it became clear that this was not quite so. It turned out that the "new national program of military building," as the U.S. press called it, was certainly not a finished program but just a rough draft of one, although it had been worked out in depth. Two months after the Pentagon's report appeared, President Clinton ordered the formation of an interdepartmental group of experts with the task of preparing recommendations for a "fundamental reappraisal" of U.S. nuclear policy and strategy and the elaboration of new approaches to the building and utilization of the nuclear forces. Along with the elaborated data on a review of the general principles of military building and of the structure of the armed forces, the conclusions of this group of experts are to be approved by the President and set forth in his special "Policy Review Directive." This directive does not yet exist, although it has been given the number 34.

Other parameters of U.S. military strategy, of the structure of the armed forces, and of policy in the defense sphere are also being elaborated. Defense Secretary Les Aspin declared this when he recently addressed a conference of the Reserve Officers' Association. According to him, the purport of all this work is that the United States must be the only superpower remaining in the world after the Cold War.

The task of creating armed forces which, the Pentagon boss said, must be "capable of fighting and winning two large regional wars being waged simultaneously" is now advanced as the basis of Washington's military policy. This "two-win strategy" will demand greater "flexibility and maneuverability" both of regular units of the U.S. armed forces and of the reserve forces. At the same time a special role is allocated to reserve and National Guard units. They must be equipped, manned, and trained so as to be able at any moment to embark on fulfilling combat tasks equally with regular troops.

This is just one element of the ongoing review of U.S. military policy and strategy. Measures are being taken to further improve other components as well. The task has been set in such a way as to complete this work, in the main, by this spring. The U.S. Administration believes that the rapid changes in the international situation, the departure from the scene of old threats and the emergence of new ones demand the constant renewal both of the theoretical arsenal and of the practice of military building.

President Clinton, the defense secretary declared, "is sworn to ensure that America continues to have the best trained, best equipped, and most combat-efficient troops in the world." But this does demand extra money, which will be forthcoming. The White House has already reported that the Administration will request $263.7 billion for military purposes in the coming Fiscal 1995—$3 billion more than was allocated in the current year.

This is the only way, Washington believes, that the United States will be able to remain the No. 1 superpower.

## Lake's Statements on Relations With Russia Reported

*PM0302115594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Feb 94 p 3*

[Unattributed report: "In Support of Reforms"]

[Text] If Russia pursues a policy which forces us to return to the Cold War period, irreparable harm will be done to U.S. national security. This thought was expressed by Anthony Lake, assistant to the president for national security. In an interview on CNN's International Hour he pointed out that the administration keeps a close watch on the development of the political and economic situation in Russia and expresses its concern to a certain extent. "The transition to democracy and the market in Russia is a long and painful process," the high-ranking administration representative said. "Of course, we will celebrate the Russians' victories along with them and commiserate with their defeats. However, the most important thing is that the country's main development should not jeopardize U.S. interests."

"It should not be forgotten," Lake went on, "that Russia is now at the stage of developing the plan for the further development of the economy. Government Chairman Chernomyrdin has assured everyone that he remains committed to the process of reforms. We can only adopt a wait-and-see stance and follow their further progress. Let us also remember that despite a certain departure from the original course, the past year can be described as successful in Russia. Approximately three-fourths of small enterprises and one-fourth of medium and large enterprises in Russia have now been privatized. More than 90 percent of goods are currently sold via the free market. We can see progress, and our task is to support it by every available means."

Lake voiced U.S. concern at the possibility of growing tension in Russian-Ukrainian relations following Yuriy Meshkov's victory in the presidential elections in the Crimea. "At the same time we are completely satisfied with the reaction to this event of the Ukrainian and

Russian governments, which have adopted a well-considered stance in this situation," the White House representative observed. "We are also satisfied with the policy pursued by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk since his meeting with Bill Clinton."

Commenting on the statement by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, that air strikes by NATO forces on Serbian positions in Bosnia and Herzegovina would be regarded as a declaration of war on Russia, Lake observed: "I think we should be glad that Zhirinovskiy does not speak for the Russian Government and has not been involved in shaping Russia's foreign policy. If that happened, we would now be arguing with Russia over the ownership of Alaska."

### Grachev Approves of 'Partnership for Peace'

*LD0202180194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1709 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev says his department on the whole approves of the U.S.-proposed Partnership for Peace plan but is opposed to the document being used against any third country.

If peace is to be maintained, all countries must equally be involved, he told Interfax on Wednesday [2 February].

"Although it is a good document politically, said Grachev, the Defence Ministry's response to NATO's new plan is rather cautious."

Grachev is concerned at the fact that all former Warsaw Pact nations and the Baltic states were seeing the plan as an intermediary stage towards full NATO membership.

"If the Partnership for Peace plan will gradually drag those states into the North Atlantic Alliance without consent or consultations with Russia, we will not support it," he said.

In the minister's view, NATO's enlargement poses a certain threat to Russian security.

Grachev says the PP [Partnership for Peace] plan provides for coordinated effort by NATO and other countries, Russia included, over "an interim period following the break up of the Warsaw Pact." Until European political structures emerge, all states must cooperate to defuse tensions in the continent, particularly in the former Yugoslavia, he said.

### NATO Commander Visits Kantemir Tank Division

*LD0202182694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[By correspondents Aleksandr Ostrovskiy and Oleg Nikiforov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] It is the third day of the visit by Lieutenant-General Henning von Ondarza, commander in chief of NATO Allied Forces Central Europe, to the central European sector.

The general has already had a meeting with the chief of the Russian Federation General Staff, the commander in chief of the land forces, and the command of the Moscow military district and paid a visit to the Kantemir Tank Division.

Henning von Ondarza was more interested in the soldiers' welfare and their attitude to the service as well as in the principles underpinning manpower acquisition for subunits than in their combat proficiency or modern equipment.

The general emphasized that armed forces organizational development in Russia and Germany, which are land-based powers, is different from that in the United States and the main thing is that universal military service obligation should be retained in Russia and Germany alike, so that armies do not become closed societies and so that high mobilization reserves are preserved.

[Begin Von Ondarza, recording in German fading to Russian translation] The fact that each person is doing something useful for their country is the decisive factor in favor of military service obligation. [end recording]

### Yeltsin, Shevardnadze Expect To Sign 20 Agreements

*LD0202185894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1721 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 22 for 2 February 1994; by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin, edited by Boris Grishchenko]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin is due to arrive for one day of summit talks in Tbilisi on Thursday. He and Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze will first meet privately and are to join their delegations later, Yeltsin's press office told Interfax.

The two countries are expected to sign about 20 agreements including an outline friendship and cooperation treaty. Others deal with trade and economic cooperation for 1994, free trade and the status of Russian border guards deployed in Georgia.

Yeltsin and Shevardnadze are scheduled to hold a joint news conference afterwards.

The Russian leader is due to fly back to Moscow at 21:00 local time.

The framework agreement binds Russia and Georgia to build their relations as two friendly nations and to stay out of any blocs or alliances spearheaded *against each

other. It also provides for a mechanism of consultations and subsequent measures to remove any threat to each other's interests or security.

Experts say parts of the treaty dealing with legal and property matters are designed to help ease the process as much as possible.

The two sides are committed to working out a package of measures to regulate migration and travelling. Russia and Georgia are also determined to promote economic cooperation by helping towards the formation of markets in the Black Sea region and Europe and a common economic area.

The treaty enshrines the two sides' desire for cooperation in certain areas of the economy, science and technology. It also provides for mutual responsibility for a free flow of oil and gas and unimpeded passenger and freight traffic through each other's territory.

The two countries are expected to promote closer cooperation in space research, personnel training and so on.

The 10-year agreement is to be extended automatically unless one of the sides wishes to break it off upon its expiration.

### Deputies Fear Consequences of Military Aid to Georgia

*LD0202203094*

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1725 GMT on 2 February, in a report from the daily "Details" program presented by Nikolay Svanidze, today outlined the reasons why most of the State Duma is against Yeltsin's visit to Georgia and claimed to have information that seven, not three, Russian military bases could soon be set up on Georgian territory.

"In fact, Yeltsin is returning to the position of Catherine II, who regarded Georgia as the gateway to the Caucasus," Svanidze said, "and he has timed things perfectly—Georgia is ready to make concessions. Georgia simply has no choice but to make concessions to Russia: Having suffered what amounts to military defeat, threatened with economic disintegration and hunger, with gangs on the rampage, and most of its' territory out of control; Georgia could simply cease to exist. Shevardnadze understands this and is ready to say 'yes' to many demands from Yeltsin."

The package of agreements on military cooperation to be signed tomorrow has already "incurred wrath" in the northern Caucasus, part of Russia, Svanidze said as the video cut to President of Chechnya Dzhokhar Dudayev. Yeltsin, the government, Russia's Foreign Ministry, and military leaders are for union with Georgia. Most of the State Duma is against it, he said. He then interviewed Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the State Duma committee for CIS affairs, who said a treaty signed by Russia would mean that "Russia, having taken measures to arm the Georgian Army, must at the same time prevent Abkhazia's Armed Forces from arming itself, which creates a one-sided situation that would engender a desire for revenge."

Armenia and Azerbaijan are waiting eagerly for the results of the Yeltsin visit to Georgia to see if Russia may also become "a local UN" for them, Svanidze warned.

Opponents of the treaty on friendship and cooperation with Georgia in the State Duma fear most "the very serious" level of military assistance it implies, Svanidze said, pointing to article three, in which Russia undertakes to help in the setting up, strengthening, and equipping of the Georgian Army.

"The text of the treaty says nothing about military bases," Svanidze continued, "but we have information that a memorandum will be signed during Yeltsin's meeting with Shevardnadze that will start a negotiation process for the setting up of seven Russian military bases on Georgian territory, I repeat seven; initially, the issue was of three bases being set up. It is precisely for this reason that the military, who were previously against union with Georgia, now insist on it." Two of the bases will be in Abkhazia—one in Sukhumi, the other in Gudauta, Svanidze added.

Zatulin concluded: "I would like to say, on the eve of the visit by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, that peace in the northern Caucasus could be damaged."

The council of State Duma factions today approved a letter to Yeltsin asking him not to go to Tbilisi, or at least not to sign the treaty, Svanidze said.

### Yeltsin Departs for Georgia To Meet Shevardnadze

*LD0302052894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0505 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 3 February--President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin has left Moscow on an official visit to Georgia early this morning. The program of his one-day visit is going to be very busy.

Immediately after his arrival in the Georgian capital and the greeting ceremony at the airport Yeltsin will have one-to-one talks with Eduard Shevardnadze. After that, the Russian-Georgian talks will continue with an extended number of participants. [passage omitted]

### Comments Before Leaving

*LD0302061794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0530 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 3 February—Boris Yeltsin has stated that he will sign the friendship, good-neighborliness and

cooperation Treaty in Tbilisi today but its ratification in the parliament will be delayed until the conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia are fully resolved. The President stated this at the Vnukovo-2 airport before his departure for an official visit to Georgia. The President admitted that situation in South Ossetia and Abkhazia "create problems which should be solved on the step-by-step basis."

Answering the ITAR-TASS correspondent's question on the main aims of his visit, the President said: "First of all, we are trying to stop bloodshed in Georgia. Russia cannot wait indifferently for things to sort themselves out over there." The second aim of the visit, said Yeltsin, is joint defense of the borders and the third is joint use and protection of the railways. The President also noted the need for a full-scale treaty with Georgia as well as a number of military-technical agreements.

### Yeltsin Comments Before Leaving for Tbilisi

*LD0302093794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0900 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Early this morning the presidential airplane took off for Tbilisi. The program for Yeltsin's one-day trip to the Georgian capital is very busy.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] We will sign the treaty today, after all, but we will wait with ratification until the conflict is completely settled, and this will suit both our Caucasian republics and, I think, Georgia and Russia as a whole.

Together with the CSCE and EEC, Russia is mediating in order to somehow halt the bloodshed there; second, to protect the border jointly; third, jointly to exploit railways and protect them against attacks, accordingly; fourth, a full-scale treaty to be signed with Georgia as well as military-technical agreements, an accord. [end recording]

### Commentary on Missile Arrangements With Ukraine

*PM0202101594 Moscow TRUD in Russian Night Edition 1 Feb 94 p 1*

[TRUD military observer Viktor Badurkin commentary under the "View on Situation" rubric: "Should We Have no Faith in Signed Document?"]

[Text] The signatures of Presidents Boris Yeltsin, Leonid Kravchuk, and Bill Clinton had hardly dried out on their joint statement on the future fate of Ukrainian nuclear missiles when it began to be "torpedoed" in Kiev in parliament and especially at the Ministry of Defense. Whereas the parliamentarians restricted themselves to verbal criticism of their president's conciliatory behavior and their dissatisfaction with the amount of compensation for nuclear disarmament, the generals immediately embarked on decisive action.

At first the idea developed at the heart of the military department of retaining on a temporary basis at "S" facilities (special bases) the nuclear warheads which had been separated from their delivery vehicles. And then a week ago an unexpectedly but very insistent proposal was made at the ministry collegium that the command of missile troops stationed on Ukrainian territory should take an oath of allegiance to Ukraine.

On the subject of the political "overtones" of the moves by the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, it is hard to see them as anything but a clear challenge to the line which Leonid Kravchuk is pursuing with regard to the state's nuclear disarmament. After all it is clearly written into the Moscow agreement that all nuclear warheads should be withdrawn from Ukrainian territory to Russia for the purpose of their subsequent dismantling in the shortest possible time. You might ask, why then compel the missile troops' officers to take an oath of allegiance to Ukraine, why form their own missile troops, and why create a command center for strategic nuclear forces?

You can only come to one conclusion: The Kiev generals are, irrespective of the consequences, attempting to draw out the process of handing over the nuclear weapons to Russia. What is more, this is being done to the accompaniment of public assurances from the minister Vitaliy Radetskyy about the soundness of the three presidents' decision.

I think that the key to this paradox is fairly simple. In order to command strategic forces you have at least to have some, otherwise the number of posts is cut, which means a loss of power, privileges, and everything else which guarantees the rank of general. Therefore, the Ukrainian military's reaction is completely understandable. It is more difficult to explain the parliamentarians' behavior. Colonel General Yevgeniy Maslin, chief specialist in nuclear missiles at the Russian Ministry of Defense, told me about his recent appearance before Kiev deputies. For about an hour he explained to them how dangerous it is not only for Ukraine but for the whole Europe to continue to store nuclear weapons without proper maintenance and replacement of their components, after which questions were put to him in rapid succession, including for example: But how much will Russia be able to afford for the Ukrainian warheads? An example of how politics and trade are interconnected....

Meanwhile, for some reason nobody is taking any interest in how much it will cost Russia to dismantle the "independent" [Ukrainian] munitions. Very likely much more than the $60 million the United States has appropriated for this purpose. (Incidentally, even this money is not "compensation" from kindly Uncle Sam for hazardous work undertaken, nor is it disinterested aid, but merely an advance made against the Russian share in the contract for highly enriched uranium.) At the same time

Russia has also agreed to provide Ukraine with fuel assemblies for nuclear power stations containing 100 tonnes of low-enriched uranium as the a first installment of the settlement for 200 missile warheads which in the next 10 months should be transferred to our plants for dismantling.

If the Kiev politicians and generals do nevertheless manage to draw out this process, we may all regret the consequences. The price of procrastination is too high—radiation respects no borders. Three SS-24 missile warheads which were recently urgently transported to Russia in a dangerous [predavariynyy] condition proved this. Due to periodic technical maintenance not being carried out at the proper time, hydrogen and other constituents began to accumulate in them resulting in a buildup of explosive gas. Apart from this, as time goes by nuclear munitions are subject to corrosion, the products of which are toxic and radioactive. There are after all 46 SS-24 missile launchers, 130 SS-19 launchers, and about 40 TU-160 and TU-95 heavy bombers of the Navy, for which almost 670 long-range cruise missiles with nuclear warheads are in storage.

Missile complexes began to be wound down in November and the Ukrainian storage facilities are at this moment already overflowing with nose sections and nuclear weapons taken off alert status, which has significantly increased the background radiation. This is no empty claim but a fact confirmed by the chief designers from Arzamas-16 who have visited Pervomaysk. It is at the very least shortsighted and foolhardy not to take what they say into consideration.

There is one more side to the question. Next year the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons runs out. If Ukraine does not become a party to it as a nonnuclear power, a dangerous precedent will be set for the whole world. In such circumstances the notorious "domino" effect cannot be ruled out as there are more than enough people wishing to follow this bad example, including those along Russia's southern borders.

We can only rely on the good sense of Kiev's politicians and the Ukrainian president's ability to carry out the adopted decisions and to keep to the obligations he signed with his own hand.

### Servicemen in Ukraine Units Forced To Take Allegiance Oath

*LD0202170394 Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian to Tajikistan 1700 GMT 1 Feb 94*

[From the "Radio Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Excerpt] And now I would like to dwell on the problems of nuclear weapons in the near abroad. The leadership of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry is forcing the servicemen of the strategic missile units to take the Ukrainian military oath of allegiance. Aleksandr Znamenskiy is at our microphone with the details.

[Znamenskiy] Specifically what is being referred to is the 43d Army. This army stationed on the territory of the Ukrainian Republic is armed with over 170 intercontinental missiles of the former Soviet Union. Their nuclear charges, together with other nuclear warheads situated on Ukraine's territory—and there are some 2,000 units of them— are to be taken to Russia and salvaged there in as short a time as possible. This was agreed by the presidents of Russia, the United States and Ukraine at a recent meeting in Moscow. It would seem that there would no longer be any problems as regards nuclear missile weapons in Ukraine. However, at the sitting of the collegium of Ukraine's Defense Ministry which took place the other day the commander of the 43rd Army and his subordinate, the commander of one of the divisions, were compelled to take the Ukrainian oath of allegiance. And today all servicemen of the strategic missile units are also being instructed to take the oath of allegiance to Ukraine. The Russian military believe that all these unilateral steps by Kiev are a gross violation of the American-Russian-Ukrainian nuclear accords reached in Moscow . They are not in line either with the agreement on the status of strategic nuclear forces signed by the heads of CIS as far back as February 1992.

Describing Ukraine's military leaders who take such decisions, head of the chief directorate of Russia's Defense Ministry Colonel General Yevgeniy Maslin said that they are people who want to remain in the seats of the new structures for the exploitation of nuclear weapons and to this end they need assistants in the form of a dedicated officer corps. And it is for this reason that the Ukrainisation of the officer corps is proceeding artifically in Ukraine.

Meanwhile the number of officers wishing to serve in Ukraine's missile units is steadily dropping. Today almost every second servicemen is seeking to continue his service in Russia. What is more, while previously the missilemen in Russia and Ukraine, united by one oath of allegiance, in the face of all difficulties, ensured the required level of nuclear safety, now all this is out of the question . With the adoption of the Ukrainian oath of allegiance, the command of the Russian strategic missile troops is completely losing the possibility of running the 43d Army. The set aim of Ukraine's military to completely control the nuclear forces on the republic's territory is being carried out in practice. The situation that has arisen calls into doubt the reality of the fulfilment of the Ukrainian side of its nuclear obligations and without exaggeration could lead to a disaster worse than the Chernobyl one. [passage omitted]

### Russian, Ukrainian Oblast Leaders Issue Statement

*LD0202232894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2100 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Donetsk—At a news conference on 2 February Oblast Council Chairman Vadym Chuprun reported on

the outcome of the meeting of the chairmen of the oblast councils and state administrations of 10 Ukrainian and Russian border oblasts, which took place in Belgorod on 29 January. Its participants considered the draft regulations which will be worked up in two weeks and which will determine the principles of mutual relations between the neighboring oblasts.

According to Vadym Chuprun, the meeting proved that there are no discrepancies among the leaders of the oblasts, that all disputable issues relate mostly to customs service and the border, but they should be tackled at the interstate level. At the previous meeting of oblast leaders they discussed the issue on granting them the status of border zones which would contribute to establishing normal mutual relations. This issue was to be solved by the governments of both countries. Unfortunately, Vadym Chuprun pointed out, while Russia did take certain steps in this direction, the Ukrainian Government did not respond to the appeal by the participants in the Belgorod meeting. The current meeting approved an appeal to Leonid Kravchuk and Boris Yeltsin with the request to help establish normal neighborly relations between the neighboring states.

### Adherence to Massandra Accord on Black Sea Fleet Urged

*LD0202154994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1137 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Russia believes that the Black Sea Fleet problem should be solved immediately on the basis of the relevant protocol signed by the Russian and Ukrainian presidents in Massandra September 3, 1993. This is stated in a telegram sent by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to the chairman of the Sevastopol City Council, Viktor Semyonov, reports the newspaper "Slava Sevastopolya."

The telegram says that the Russian delegation at the talks on the Black Sea Fleet is prepared to discuss with the Ukrainian delegation, within the shortest possible period, the problems associated with the drafting of an understanding, according to which the Fleet with its entire infrastructure in Crimea is to be used by Russia and fly Russian flags.

For its part, the Russian delegation will pay for the part of the Fleet, including the infrastructure, which in line with previous agreements should be part of Ukraine, says the telegram.

On Tuesday, in an interview with Interfax, the Ukrainian Foreign Minister favored the idea of the Fleet's problem being solved on the basis of the Yalta agreements, not the Massandra ones.

In the summer of 1992, the presidents of Ukraine and Russia, Leonid Kravchuk and Boris Yeltsin, signed near Yalta the agreement according to which Russia and Ukraine would create their Naval forces on the basis of the Black Sea Fleet. During their creation, the Fleet would be subordinate to both presidents.

On September 3, 1993, in Massandra (Black Sea southern coast), the two presidents signed agreements according to which Ukraine was to hand over to Russia its part of the Fleet as repayment of the debt for earlier supplies of Russian energy.

### Officials Reject Revision of Fleet Status

*LD0202183894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1507 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by Diplomatic Correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry is not inclined to attach too much importance to Ukrainian officials' statements advocating a revision of the Massandra agreements on the Black Sea Fleet, a high-ranking Russian diplomat told Interfax.

He said that these statements must not be taken seriously because they were made "in the heat" of the election campaign in Crimea.

To quote the diplomat, in Massandra the Russian and Ukrainian presidents agreed that the Black Sea Fleet would be Russian. "The talk about changes in Ukraine's official position and about a roll- back to the Yalta agreements, according to which the Black Sea Fleet was equally divided between Russian and Ukraine, might be resumed only if President Kravchuk made a corresponding statement," he said.

Russia will not depart from the Massandra agreements, a high- ranking Defense Ministry official told Interfax.

He said that the Defense Ministry continued work on new agreements that would supplement the Massandra accord.

He noted in particular that some of the actions by the Ukrainian side contradict with these agreements. "Thus, on Wednesday, February 2, the Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev sent a response to his Ukrainian counterpart Vitaly Radetsky in which he opposed Kiev's initiative to institute the post of commander of the Sevastopol military district," he said. "Why should we institute a separate post if it is already occupied by the commander of the Black Sea Fleet, Admiral Eduard Baltin, nominated by the presidents of the two countries?"

"Suppose we resumed the discussion of the fleet division. What then? Even in better times Kiev financed only 16 percent of the Black Sea Fleet's needs. Ukraine cannot afford the Black Sea Fleet and will auction it off. It is also clear that this will not benefit either Russia's or Ukraine's defense capability," he said.

### No Russian Timetable for Estonian Troop Withdrawal

*LD0202164694 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Russia has not yet presented a timetable for troop withdrawal from Estonia even though one was expected at the present round of Estonian-Russian talks which took place near Moscow yesterday and today. Juri Kahn, Estonian ambassador to Moscow, who is the leader of the economic issues working group at the talks on the Estonian side, told Estonian Radio that Russia has promised to present a timetable for the troop withdrawal if Estonia accepts the agreement on Russian military pensioners as designed by Russia.

According to Juri Kahn, Estonia and Russia did not sign any documents during this round of talks. However, some were prepared, to be signed at the next round of talks. This is due at Lohusalu in Estonia on 1 and 2 March.

### Latest Talks Open

*PM0202131394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Feb 94 p 3*

[Report by Sergey Knyazkov: "Everything Hangs on Signing a Fundamental Treaty. Russia Is Linking This Closely with Schedule for Withdrawing Its Troops from Estonia"]

[Text] The latest round of talks between Estonia and Russia began outside Moscow yesterday. The agenda included the traditional package of questions regarding troop withdrawal and problems to do with borders and the humanitarian, legal, and economic aspects of cooperation. For the first time, the delegation from the Republic of Estonia will be headed at the talks by Reino Reinart, chief of the Department for International Organizations and Security at the republic's Foreign Ministry, who has been given the diplomatic rank of ambassador. It is well known that Juri Luik, the former head of the Estonian delegation, has been appointed Estonian foreign minister.

In the opinion of Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar, the priority issue at these talks remains the fastest possible withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonian territory. The Estonian side hopes that Russia will submit a written schedule for withdrawing its troops. Laar believes that once this is done, the republic will have the opportunity to reach agreement with Russia as soon as possible on creating conditions for implementing the schedule, and "by 31 August the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia will be complete."

On the eve of the talks, Vladimir Tsivinskiy, secretary to the Russian delegation at the talks with Estonia, noted in an interview with your KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent that there are plans to submit a schedule for withdrawing troops. At the same time, Tsivinskiy stressed, this act directly depends on a number of factors, the most important of which is the willingness of the two sides to sign a fundamental treaty on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia.

### Linkage of Problems in Talks Rejected

*MK0202142094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Feb 94 p 3*

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Yesterday another round of Russian-Estonian interstate talks began in Nakhabino, near Moscow. The program of discussion includes military, humanitarian, economic, and border problems. The Estonian side is primarily interested in a detailed schedule for the pullout of Russian troops from Estonia. The Estonian delegation is ready to agree to the Russian proposal on the final withdrawal date (31 August 1994) only if Estonia gets a schedule providing for a priority pullout of combat units and subdivisions. Vasiliy Svirin, chief Russian negotiator, said last week that such a detailed document has been prepared and it specifies the date for the relocation of each military unit. The schedule will be presented during the talks. Vyano Reynar, Estonia's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, who has replaced Juri Luik at the post of chief Estonian negotiator, has expressed the hope that in spite of a number of contradictions, the main treaty on the pullout of Russian troops will be ratified after all. At the same time Ago Tiyman, the delegation's executive secretary and head of its military group, stressed that Estonia would like the Russian side not to link economic and political problems, in particular the issue of human rights. It is precisely for this reason, he thinks, that the fully elaborated and prepared agreements and treaties on economic matters have not been signed yet.

### Negotiator: Estonia Plans To Deport Russian Veterans

*LD0202185194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1740 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS—Estonia refused to discuss the possibility of granting the Russian minority the freedom of acquiring Estonian citizenship and demanded that a part of Russian retired military should withdraw from the republic together with the troops.

"We hoped that the resolution of the UN General Assembly adopted last December, which pointed to unsettled problems in Estonia concerning big ethnic groups, mostly Russians, will be correctly comprehended in Tallinn", Vasiliy Svirin, head of the Russian delegation at talks with Estonia, told a press conference on Wednesday after the end of the 16th round of talks.

"We called on Estonia to begin a concrete discussion of a draft agreement on settling the citizenship problem

which has been on the negotiating table for two years without any progress because Estonia had blocked it", he said and added that the Estonian delegation refused to work on the agreement.

The document grants Russians in Estonia and Estonians in Russia the right to acquire the Estonian or Russian citizenship on a free basis.

Svirin also said that Estonia demanded that Russian military who retired after the abortive Soviet coup in August 1991 be withdrawn from the Baltic state together with Russian troops, but agreed that 9,670 military who retired before that can count on receiving a residence permit.

"The issue of deporting a considerable number of retired military is put on the agenda", Svirin commented.

The deportation problem may diminish the "considerable progress" which, according to Svirin, was reached on the draft agreement on the Russian pullout. He added that the agreement might be initialled in the near future, but the deportation problem had now emerged.

The Russian chief negotiator said that Russia had for the first time warned Estonia, which categorically refuses to jointly demarcate the border with Russia, that it has to begin doing the job by itself.

### Talks on Baykonur Continue in Moscow

*LD0202125694 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0830 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] A working meeting of experts from the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan is continuing in Moscow. They are discussing the status of the Baykonur cosmodrome and the town of Leninsk and conditions for their use. At the moment the Kazakh side is still refusing to recognize Baykonur as a Russian military base and is insisting on its demilitarization, since Kazakhstan's constitution stipulates that there must not be any foreign military bases on the republic's territory.

### Talks Bring No Results

*LD0202181194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1452 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] The second day of Russian-Kazakh talks in Moscow Tuesday on conditions for leasing the Baykonur cosmodrome has not brought the two sides closer to agreement.

The representative of the Russian Space Agency, who took part in the talks, told INTERFAX that the talks are proceeding with difficulty. He said that the issues associated with the sum of compensation for the use of launching sites and the coordination of the system of the legal regulation of relationships among the cosmodrome personnel were postponed for the last day of talks, Wednesday.

The Russian Space Agency's representative said that during the talks Russian experts named the sum of the lease, which Russia is prepared to pay, and offered its feasibility studies (he refused to name the figure). He told INTERFAX, however, that the Kazakh side has made no response.

Russian experts tend to explain the passiveness of the Kazakh delegation by the ambiguity of its stance. According to information obtained by INTERFAX, Kazakhstan, despite the understanding reached in Almaty in mid-January on giving up the idea of creating on the Baykonur basis an international joint-stock company, still gives it much emphasis, for example, within the framework of the bilateral meetings with U.S. experts (an American 13-member delegation recently visited the cosmodrome at the invitation of Kazakhstan).

Russian experts believe that Kazakhstan's uncertainty should go away after President Nazarbayev discusses issues of the U.S.- Kazakhstan outer space cooperation (including the U.S. possible involvement in the use of Baykonur) during his visit to Washington scheduled for mid-February. Experts believe that the future of the Russian-Kazakh agreement on leasing the cosmodrome depends directly on the results of the talks in Washington.

The agency spokesman following the three-day talks in Moscow said the two sides will sign a list of concrete problems on which they agree or disagree.

### Russian Planes Allegedly Taking Syrian Arms to Armenia

*PM0302115794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 3 Feb 94 p 3*

[Leonid Timofeyev report: "I Fly Where I Want"]

[Text] A report which has appeared in Turkey's HURRIYET is worrying. It essentially says that Russian and Ukrainian civil airliners are transporting arms from Syria to Armenia.

The conclusion was drawn on the basis that Turkish Air Force technical devices have apparently registered the landing in Yerevan of airplanes which have not stopped over in Odessa and Sochi. But, as your KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent was told at the Russian Federation Air Transportation Department, such flights are scarcely possible without the sanction of official aviation authorities.

Admittedly, a lot of private air companies have appeared recently which do not come under the control of ministries or departments. Once they have licenses for international transportation, they practically cease to be supervised by state organs.

## Envoy, Paper Differ on Response to Latvia

*PM0202120794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Feb 94 First Edition p 5*

[Feature comprising article by Special Envoy Sergey Zotov, head of the Russian delegation to the talks with Latvia, followed by editorial commentary, under the general headline: "Moscow's Tough Reaction to Arrest of Russian Generals in Latvia Was Justified"]

[Text] [Zotov] The editorial published in IZVESTIYA (No. 8) under the headline "Arrest of Two Russian Generals in Latvia Is Lesson for Moscow and Riga" pursued the idea that the placing of relevant Army and Navy units on alert status in connection with the 10 January seizure of four Northwest Group of Forces installations and two Russian generals in Riga 10 January by Latvian militia shows that there is weak civilian control over the Armed Forces and that the decision was reached without the necessary coordination among the presidential apparatus, the Security Council, and other competent structures.

There is no doubt that in a democratic state there should be effective civilian control over the use of the Armed Forces.

Nor can there be any objection to the premise advanced in the article that we should resort to this obviously extreme measure only after considering the potential for safeguarding citizens by diplomatic means.

As for the aforementioned incident in Riga, which was extremely brazen and unprecedented, apart from its emotional aspect (the capture of generals is always viewed in Russia like the loss of military colors) it was a blatant violation of international law. And the numerous illegal acts previously undertaken against Russian servicemen in Latvia constituted aggravating circumstances.

In late December 1993 there was a new series of provocations, including an attack on a military courier service and two instances of militia shelling of military transportation. There was an escalation of unpunished provocations against Russian troops, culminating in the events of 10 January, which were timed to coincide with the Russian delegation's arrival in Riga.

Even after the Latvian president announced his readiness to take the proper measures, it took five hours before the Russian generals were released, during which time our citizens were threatened with being shot. The Russian side also took account of the fact that the militia is virtually beyond executive jurisdiction when it took measures to protect the lives and honor of the Russian generals.

I want to assure IZVESTIYA readers that Colonel General L.S. Mayorov, commander of the Northwestern Group of Forces, behaved superbly in a difficult situation and was in constant contact with the Russian state delegation from the time we arrived at Riga airport. Defense Minister P.S. Grachev and Foreign Minister A.V. Kozyrev, who issued a long statement, were immediately informed about what had happened. The supreme commander in chief—President B.N. Yeltsin—was immediately informed too. So it would be wrong to imagine that the measures taken were some kind of "freelance" military operation.

As for the actual nature of Russia's military measures, in our delegation's opinion they were the only correct thing to do, since they stopped the incident fromescalating into a conflict with unforeseeable consequences.

I particularly want to stress that, if we had limited our reaction to a statement, this would have been seen by radical nationalist forces as a signal to move to even more unbridled provocations against our servicemen, against the thousands of military pensioners and their families, and against the Russian population, which is trying to win respect for its rights.

May I voice the view that we have still not yet fully grasped the importance of this seemingly insignificant military-diplomatic step in terms of our foreign policy, the awakening of our national self-awareness, and the boosting of morale among our Armed Forces. The cherished desire of Russia's professional diplomats and of all our countrymen who value our national interests in deeds rather than words is for the steps taken by Russia 10 January become the starting point for a new presidential policy and a new foreign policy for Russia.

Russia has firmly and clearly stated, perhaps more than ever before, that it is still a great power and that nobody will be allowed to deliver ultimatums to it, pressure it, or blackmail it. Those planning new provocations against Russia and its citizens now know that there will be a swift and appropriate response on our part taking account of international precedents, including the U.S. experience.

This is nothing to do with "imperial ambitions." We are merely talking about a state's right and, I would say, its duty to use all means available to it in international practice to protect its honor and the national dignity of its citizens. I am sure that if we consistently and steadily follow this line in practice we will be able to avoid in the future a great deal of the trouble that is currently visible on the foreign policy horizon.

And, on the contrary, if we "give up" this position under pressure from people offering us "good advice," we will again encounter attempts to diminish our national worth and come up against new problems for our state.

Anticipating the reaction of our possible opponents, I would like to say that there is nothing short-term about these arguments of mine. The Russian delegation at the talks with Latvia has always, despite the obstacles raised, consistently and successfully pursued this line in strict accordance with the directives ratified by the Russian president. [Zotov ends]

### Great Powers Still Not Defined by Military Might

[IZVESTIYA] Having a strong position is any diplomat's dream. The question is: What is to be considered a strong position? What result did the Russian military men and diplomats achieve in demonstrating their readiness to use force? Initially, after the provocative arrest of the two generals, Latvian diplomats were indeed prepared to make concessions, and Ambassador Sergey Zotov decided that airborne assault battalions would be the most convincing argument at the talks.

But Riga's confusion was quickly over. And not because the Latvians were not frightened enough. On the contrary, it was clear to Latvian politicians (and not only them) that it was necessary to be as stubborn as possible in getting the Russian Army to withdraw and in cutting themselves off from Russian generals behind an iron or any other kind of curtain.

Did this show of force make the Russians living in the Baltic any more secure? Probably just the opposite. The position of Russian people is affected badly by any attempts to pressure the Balts; the Russians have become hostages to Russian policy. In this sense the armed force was absolutely impotent.

So what advantage was gained?

Morale improved sharply not only among generals, as IZVESTIYA had assumed, but among diplomats too. It turns out that even diplomats like banging their fists on the table.

You can understand why. The behavior of the Latvian officials with whom the Russian diplomats and military have to deal—whether they like it or not—betrays the triumph of a provincial arrogance that has suddenly recognized its own power.

But it must not be forgotten that the tricks both big and small that have been played by the Baltic officials had just one cause—the presence on their country's territory of another state's army, whose withdrawal they are demanding as quickly as possible.

There is also another issue—the appropriateness of the response. Almost nine years ago, when Mikhail Gorbachev had been in power for just two weeks, a Soviet soldier from the Group of Forces in Germany shot the American Major Nicholson. It had seemed to the vigilant guard than the American was trying to discover some secrets.

So, following the logic of Ambassador Zotov, who values American experience, just how should the United States have reacted? If assault troops are placed on combat alert when people are arrested, should the response to a killing be a missile strike against the enemy?

Fortunately for everyone, the United States restricted itself to diplomatic measures, and there is no reason to believe that it ceased being a great power at that point.

So IZVESTIYA would by no means want the events of 10 January to be considered the "starting point for a new Russian foreign policy."

### Infrastructure Takeover Could Pay Off Latvia's Gas Debt

*PM0202171594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Feb 94 First Edition p 2*

[Irina Litvinova report: "Moscow Intends To Take Latvia's Gas Debts in Industrial Property"]

[Text] Riga—More than $27 million—that is what Latvia owes Russia for natural gas supplies. This figure has been reported in the Latvian media for the first time.

Judging from officials' reports, the debt has built up steadily. Having turned into a chronic defaulter, the "Latviyas Gaze" ("Latvian Gas") state enterprise is also committed to pay considerable sums in fines to its Russian suppliers. Last year the money owing to Russia for its natural gas supplies was paid off with the help of international loans. Since then the situation has not changed for the better.

The leaders of "Latviyas Gaze" reported that this year an agreement with Russia on gas deliveries had been concluded on "terms advantageous to the Latvian side." Nonetheless, it has not proved possible to pay the sum required. It is as if Latvia is receiving gas on credit. The DIENA newspaper has reported that Russia issued an official warning in mid-January to the "Latviyas Gaze" state enterprise, demanding that it change its payment policy for the gas it has used. It is proposed that this demand be met by 1 February, otherwise gas supplies will be cut by 50 percent.

But Latvian consumers are not threatened with any particular unpleasantness as a result of this reduction in the supply of Russian natural gas. The fact is that Europe's largest underground gas storage facility, into which Russian gas has constantly been pumped, is located in the republic at Incukalns.

Russia has agreed to forgive the debts in return for part of the Incukalns gas storage facility and the network of gas pipelines running across Latvian territory.

### No Admission to Council of Europe Before End of 1994

*LD0202153494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1407 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS—Russia can be admitted to the Council of Europe not earlier than the end of 1994, according to a delegation of the Russian Federal Assembly that recently returned from a session of the Council of Europe Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in France.

The delegation included deputy chairman of the Council of the Federation, the upper house of the new parliament, Ramazan Abdulatipov, Deputies Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, Sergey Baburin, Sergey Glotov, Aleksandr Dzasokhov and Vladimir Podoprigora.

Russia's admittance to the Council of Europe should be preceded by visits to Russia of the heads of some of its committees and council leaders, Ambartsumov said. He said the visit to France aimed at restoring ties between the Russian parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly which have been suspended after the 1993 October revolt in Moscow. "We think this goal was achieved," he added.

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow on Wednesday, the members of the delegation said that Russia's admittance to the Council of Europe in being artificially delayed, which signifies that Western parliamentarians are concerned about the situation in Russia.

Abdulatipov stressed that the visit "was a good start of coordinated activities of both houses of the Federal Assembly." He said the parliament should set up a permanent delegation of about 18 people in the interests of future visits. The delegation should include representatives of all factions of the parliament.

### Official Views Talks on Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

*LD0202213294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2103 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva February 2 TASS—Now it is important to give a good and energetic start to the U.N. disarmament conference, which is encountering new difficult problems, above all, the task of working out an international treaty on a universal ban on nuclear tests, Russia's permanent representative in the conference Grigoriy Berdennikov said in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Wednesday [2 February].

Berdennikov noted Russia's principle readiness to go in for concluding at present such a treaty, which can be subjected to checking, and emphasised that Russia will construct its stand at the talks in such a way that they are mainly completed, possibly by the spring of 1995.

The Russian delegation attaches top priority to the nuclear test ban talks in 1994, Berdennikov said. According to him, the question of the scope of the treaty should be decided on the basis of already existing international accords, above all, the Moscow treaty of 1963, which bans nuclear tests in three mediums, of course, with the inclusion of a ban on underground tests. Russia advocates an unlimited and non-discriminatory character of the treaty and equal rights and responsibilities of all its participants, he said.

The agreement should apply not only to nuclear states, but also to those which are capable of making nuclear weapons. The treaty should come into force after the submission of ratification deeds, provided they include deeds of all states, which possess nuclear power plants and research reactors at the time of signing the document. There is a need to impose the strictest sanctions on participating countries which violate its main statutes, right up to imposing economic or other measures of compulsions stipulated by the UN Charter.

The delegation also favours working out a multilateral agreement on guarantees of the security of non-nuclear states.

### Deputy Foreign Minister Meets UN Secretary General

*LD0302065694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0640 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations Organisation February 3 TASS—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had a meeting here on Wednesday with U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

Lavrov handed over to the U.N. secretary-general a message of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev dealing with cooperation between the Russian Federation And the United Nations Organisation, including the activisation of efforts, aimed at ensuring a peaceful political settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as the promotion of peace-keeping activities on the territory of the new Commonwealth, specifically in Abkhazia and Tajikistan.

Lavrov also handed over to Butrus-Ghali the request of Kozyrev, as chairman of the CIS Council of Ministers, to grant the new Commonwealth the status of an observer at the U.N. General Assembly in accordance with a resolution of the CIS summit in Ashgabat.

Lavrov and Butrus-Ghali discussed issues dealing with the preparation of the visit of the U.N. secretary-general to Moscow, whose date will be coordinated in the near future.

### French Defense Minister Leotard, Delegation Arrive 2 Feb

*LD0202215894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2115 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow February 3 TASS—A French military delegation led by Defence Minister Francois Leotard arrived in Moscow on Wednesday.

This is the first official visit to Russia by Leotard since his appointment French defence minister in the spring of 1993.

On February 3, the French delegation will meet with First Deputy Defence Minister Andrey Kokoshin and Chief of the Russian General Staff Mikhail Kolesnikov. Leotard will visit the Moscow All Arms Military School. Upon his return from Tbilisi where he flew today for talks, Russian Defence Minister Pavel will take his French counterpart on a tour of an airborne division in Tula near Moscow.

The visit is part of the Russian-French bilateral agreement signed during Grachev's visit to France in January 1993 on mutual contacts, delegation exchanges and training Russian servicemen in France and their French colleagues in Russia.

Leotard also plans to meet with First Vice-Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev who visited France in the autumn of 1993. During the visit they signed bilateral agreements on cooperation to dismantle nuclear weapons in Russia and ensure their safe transportation.

### FRY's Information on Military Forces 'Welcomed'

*PM0302115994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Feb 94 p 3*

[ITAR-TASS report: "Satisfaction in Moscow"]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Feb—The report that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY] authorities have provided CSCE states with information on their military forces—their status as of 1 January 1994—for the first time since the collapse of former Yugoslavia has been welcomed with satisfaction in Russia. This was stated at a briefing by G. Karasin, director of the Foreign Ministry Department of Information and the Press.

A document distributed by FRY representatives in Vienna notes that the Yugoslav Army does not plan to deploy additional categories of heavy weapons or operational systems on its territory in 1994, the Russian Foreign Ministry representative reported.

"The provision of data about the stationing of troops and their armaments in conditions of constant combat action in Bosnia and Herzegovina is evidence, in our opinion, of the FRY's commitment to solving the problems of military security and stability in the region," Karasin noted.

### Germany's Frey on Zhirinovskiy, European Policies

*PM0202165194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Feb 94 First Edition p 5*

[Interview with Gerhard Frey, leader of German People's Union, by Boris Vinogradov; place and date not given: "Gerhard Frey: 'I Love Zhirinovskiy and Russia'"]

[Text] As a German newspaper has written, their friendship flared like a torch in the hands of storm troopers during the night of the "long knives." The symbolism really does appear sinister if you consider the fact that the first meeting between Gerhard Frey and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy took place in Germany while preparations were being made there to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Hitler's accession to power, and their second meeting took place in Moscow while the 50th anniversary of the lifting of the siege of Leningrad was being celebrated in Russia.

What do the leader of the "German People's Union" and the leader of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party have in common?

Considering himself the "best friend" of the German people, just as Frey is of the Russian people, Vladimir Volfovich cannot understand why he was refused a German visa. Frey is bringing an action against the FRG Embassy and is threatening to win the case, because he has not lost a single court case in his entire busy life.

Tell me who your friend is.... Evidently knowing this Russian proverb, at the start of our conversation Gerhard Frey uttered very flattering words about Zhirinovskiy as the future president of Russia.

[Vinogradov] Did you know, Dr. Frey, that our readers know you as an extremist, a neo-Nazi, and publisher of the ultraright-wing newspaper NATIONALZEITUNG?

[Frey] I have never been either a Nazi or, still less, a fascist, as the former communist press used to portray me. I always struggled for my motherland's reunification, but I was seen as someone who does not recognize the postwar borders and who demands revanche.

In my opinion, the point is that, having lost an enemy in the guise of communism, German journalism, which was created according to U.S. standards and licenses after the war, lives on old notions. A new enemy image is now being foisted onto German society—in the person of my friend Zhirinovskiy and, thus, in the person of the Russian voters who voted for him.

[Vinogradov] Did you fall in love with Russia long ago? After making Zhirinovskiy's acquaintance?

[Frey] I have always loved Russia. Our peoples have much in common. When Russia and Germany were together, the world only benefited from that. We suffered the greatest losses, and the memory of the millions who died must be a guarantee that we never again end up as enemies.

Let us recall history. Russia saved Frederick the Great in the Seven Years' War and saved Europe and Germany from Napoleon, and even in the early twenties, despite the difference in the systems, the treaty of Rapallo was made possible. Zhirinovskiy and I advocate the implementation of a friendly policy in Moscow and Berlin, and then our countries will once again occupy a worthy place in the world arena. Russia is having a hard time now, and we must help it to surmount the crisis.

[Vinogradov] How do you rate Zhirinovskiy's calls for the borders in Europe to be changed? Are they consonant with your wishes to return to Germany the lands lost after the war?

[Frey] What, in fact, are you talking about? European borders have long been being redrawn. Examples of this are provided by Germany, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, the Soviet Union. Next came Belgium, Canada, Italy, Ireland.... The 1975 Helsinki Act is a dead document. The Oder-Neisse line is not a God-given border once and for all. We should proceed from the peoples' right to self-determination. If the population of Crimea, for example, or Belarus wishes to reunite with Russia, who can prevent this? It is perfectly possible that in five or 10 years' time Warsaw will wish to discuss with us the return of Silesia.

[Vinogradov] But what about Kaliningrad Oblast, the former East Prussia?

[Frey] I do not doubt that in the future our countries will find a mutually acceptable way to resolve this problem too. After all, we have to correct the injustice perpetrated against Germans driven from their primordial lands, be they Pomerania, Sudetenland, or Silesia.

## Zhirinovskiy on Community of Slavic States

*BR0302114294 Milan FAMIGLIA CRISTIANA in Italian 9 Feb 94 pp 44-45*

[Interview with Russian Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy by Fulvio Scaglione in Moscow; date not given: "Hands Off Russia"]

[Text] "In the fall it will be our turn to govern. Meanwhile I am resting." This was said by Russia's bugbear, the Black Specter in politics Vladimir Volfovich Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party and winner in the latest elections, but he was not telling the truth. Some rest: He travels, sees, meets, makes speeches, shakes his fist in the corridors of the Duma (the Russian parliament), and he gives a few interviews, such as this.

[Scaglione] You are about to visit Belgrade. Are you pleased with the document in support of Serbia approved by the new Duma?

[Zhirinovskiy] Yes, partly because the document stemmed from an initiative on our part. We told Kozyrev (foreign minister—FAMIGLIA CRISTIANA editor's note) clearly: Unless you adopt a pro-Serbian stance right away, we will make you resign. We have no doubts: We are with the Serbs.

[Scaglione] How can the war in the former Yugoslavia be ended?

[Zhirinovskiy] It is enough to remove all the foreign armed forces. Let us remove them, then you will see how order will return.

[Scaglione] You will be visiting Poland, where you are not much liked. Why?

[Zhirinovskiy] I will be visiting Poland, true—but Slovenia, too—and I have been to Bulgaria. I am in solidarity with them: We should form a community of Slavic states together, but with no ideology, no pan-Slavism. This is demanded by the compactness of our territories, our customs, our history, and our culture. Be that as it may, the Poles must not be afraid: We are in favor of the inviolability of borders. Unfortunately we are forced to defend ourselves because the West is trying to change ours, despite the accords signed in Helsinki in 1975.

[Scaglione] I beg your pardon?

[Zhirinovskiy] Those accords envisaged the inviolability of borders in Europe. Why, then, were the Soviet Union's borders changed? Who gave them the right to do that? France cannot be touched. We will not even mention Germany. Only in Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet Union have the borders been changed—as it so happens, the Slavic countries. These are double standards: How can we be happy with that? There is nothing fascist about it. They call us fascists to denigrate us and to frighten our supporters. They will pay for it: We have sued Yegor Gaydar over this, and have demanded 100 million [currency unspecified] in damages.

[Scaglione] Why do you take issue with the West so much? Not long ago you said that Russia needed technology and aid.

[Zhirinovskiy] This business of Western aid is just a provocation. Nobody gives us a cent: In fact they only come here to take. This IMF is just an illusion; it does us harm, and that is all. The tide of profiteers will gradually be eliminated: By 1995 we will have thrown them all out, we will have a new government and a new policy.

[Scaglione] Is there no European political leader that you respect?

[Zhirinovskiy] None. They all hate Russia. But we will get along on our own—and better.

[Scaglione] If it is as you say, why sell so many weapons abroad? To China, for instance?

[Zhirinovskiy] We will continue to sell weapons everywhere. Whoever wants to buy will always be welcome. But we will ensure that our weapons do not end up in the hands of those who have aggressive intentions with respect to Russia. So to our neighboring countries we will sell only defensive weapons, while to distant countries we will also sell offensive weapons.

[Scaglione] Do you not consider this a harmful attitude for you to take? You are not even allowed to enter Germany.

[Zhirinovskiy] This is already the second time that I have been refused a visa. The first time, last year, I

organized a picket outside their embassy in Moscow, and after two hours my visa was ready. But that is not the important thing: I will be visiting Spain, Norway, Australia. There are many countries that I still have to visit. In any case, this time the picket was not necessary: My German friends and colleagues organized one outside their Foreign Ministry. Not bad, would you not say? Be that as it may, Germany is a country with limited sovereignty, a colony of the United States and the Zionists. What kind of freedom are they talking about? The freest country in the world is Russia. The strongest country in the world is Russia. And Russia's largest party is the Liberal Democratic Party, my party. Freedom is here, in my office. Germany is a colony where foreign troops have resided for 50 years, plagued by 4 million Turks whom the Germans are starting to burn alive in their homes. That is fascism.

[Scaglione] No cooperation with anyone, then?

[Zhirinovskiy] On the contrary. I am in favor of joint projects. For instance, we should build a freeway from Germany to Japan via Russia. The traffic would be huge, and we Russians would stay home drinking tea and live off the transit tolls. Or: The Germans build good motors, we build excellent armor plate. Together, we could build the best tank in the world. We could take the Italians into space, and you could give us automobiles. There are opportunities. It is the European countries—hostages of the United States and the Zionists—that are reluctant. They eat, drink, and remain silent. And to think that it was we who saved them.

[Scaglione] I beg your pardon?

[Zhirinovskiy] In the 13th century, from the Mongols. In the 18th century, from the Swedes. In the 19th century, from the French. In this century, from the Nazi-fascists. We confronted the Ottoman Empire, freeing the Balkans, Southern Europe, and Central Asia. We saved Israel, when we were the Soviet Union, and as Russia we saved Iraq.

[Scaglione] What is the status of your relations with President Yeltsin?

[Zhirinovskiy] Good. We meet from time to time. He likes volleyball, and so do I. He is a good man, and he gives me no trouble.

[Scaglione] Are there no problems between you?

[Zhirinovskiy] Problems? Why should there be? He was deceived by Gaydar, Burbulis, and their group, and it is never pleasant to be conned. Now, having seen the results, he is trying to redress matters, but that is a difficult task. If I were in his shoes, I would already have expelled them from the country or put them in prison. But Yeltsin is a good man, and he is not doing anything to them. But I will not leave them alone; I will make sure that they pay the penalties envisaged by the criminal code for those who attack the state's security and prosperity. They know this, which is why they shout, "fascist, fascist."

[Scaglione] But will you take Yeltsin's place sooner or later?

[Zhirinovskiy] Certainly. Through lack of rivals. Now, or in a year or two: It makes no difference. Yeltsin is finished politically, and look who is around—Gaydar, Sobchak, Volskiy, Travkin, Yavlinskiy—all people who command 10 percent of the votes. We have 120,000 members and received 12.3 million votes. In the next election it will be triple that. This is why they hate me: They know that I will be the next president.

## Japan 'Tired' of Moscow 'Vagueness' on Territorial Issue

*PM0202121194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Feb 94 First Edition p 4*

[Report by Sergey Agafonov: "Japanese Waiting To See Whose View of the Territorial Problem Prevails in Moscow"]

[Text] Tokyo—For the first time in the past few weeks top officials have remembered Russia and said something about it. The occasion was the arrival of deputy Gennadiy Burbulis to attend an academic symposium on regional security matters. He was admitted to a reception at the premier's residence and to the office of the head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

The former Russian state secretary's visit to Japan last September left behind the best possible memories in Tokyo, based primarily on what Japan saw as Burbulis' constructive approach to the territorial problem. For this trip the pragmatic hosts did strip Gennadiy Eduardovich of the title of Yeltsin's closest adviser, together with the description "influential," but they were well-disposed toward the visitor nonetheless.

Judging by available information, the meeting with the cabinet head lasted half an hour and was unremarkable. The visitor, placing special emphasis on the Russian president's efforts, set out to persuade the Japanese premier that the course of Russian reforms is continuing and is not going to change and that the new Russian Constitution that has been adopted lays the foundation for Russian political stability and creates an opportunity for the solution of a variety of problems, including bilateral Russian-Japanese ones. The host was rather more laconic and, having paid tribute to Yeltsin's visit to Japan last year, expressed the cautious hope that the reforms in Russia would actually develop and would not go off the road.

Burbulis conveyed greetings to the Japanese foreign minister from Kozyrev, who expressed a wish for regular meetings with the head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry for their mutual benefit. Inspired by the greetings, Minister Hata responded by saying that he is prepared to go

to Russia and is even planning such a trip, although he strongly linked the fate of the visit and its date to the results of the upcoming Russian-Japanese consultations at the end of February. If the results of these talks are satisfactory from Japan's viewpoint, Hata will definitely go to Moscow. What will happen if that is not the case the minister did not say, although it is easy to guess.

Hata's linking the Russian visit to the outcome of the routine round of bilateral consultations with no earth-shattering tasks on their agenda is something new in the context of bilateral relations. It appears that the Japanese are tired of Russian vagueness and, fearful of Moscow's unpredictability, want to clarify matters, first by confirming the vitality and validity of all the accords that were reached during Yeltsin's visit to Japan last year. As far as one can tell, the Japanese scenario for the upcoming consultations is based on a kind of brief questionnaire demanding clear, unequivocal answers and opening with the number one question: Does Moscow acknowledge the existence of the territorial problem and is it prepared to continue the substantive dialogue on this problem?

In view of Prime Minister Chernomyrdin's well-known stance on this question, which is at odds with the president's, it is understandable that the Japanese should want things defined. In this respect, the terms set out by the Japanese foreign minister look perfectly logical—you have to know who your are dealing with: the Moscow that went to Tokyo with Yeltsin, or some other Moscow, one that has altered since the parliamentary elections and the establishment of a government of red directors.

## Kurils Let Japan, South Korea Fish in Exchange for Fuel

*MK0202150094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 2 Feb 94 p 11*

[Unattributed report: "South Kurils: Fish in Exchange for Japanese and Korean Fuel"]

[Text] As of 31 January, South Korean and Japanese fishermen are permitted to catch, off the South Kurils, up to 10 percent of fish and seafood procured annually in the area (about 1.5 million tonnes) in exchange for fuel. Permission was issued by the Fishing Industry's Sakhalin Oblast Department on approval from the Russian Federation Committee on Fishing in connection with a shortage of funds to provide the islands with fuel oil, gasoline, and diesel oil. According to Aleksandr Medvedev, head of the Sakhalin administration fishing department, the Kurils thus will be able to get from Japan and South Korea 45,000 tonnes of diesel fuel and 15,000 tonnes of fuel oil, quite sufficient to solve these islands' energy supply problem.

## Plans To Enhance Trade, Economic Ties With Cuba

*LD3101190594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1644 GMT 31 Jan 94*

[Text] Russia and Cuba are restoring traditional trade and economic cooperation and intend to enhance it.

The Russian Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations told Interfax that the two states were to increase mutual deliveries of oil and sugar in 1994. Russia would export 4 Mn [million] tons of oil by the end of 1994 (instead of 2.5 Mn tons, the delivery of which was coordinated in late 1993) in exchange for 2.5 Mn tons of cane sugar, exceeding the earlier expected volume of deliveries by 2.5 times.

According to Russian Foreign Economic Relations Minister Oleg Davydov, "Russia is very interested in importing Cuban sugar since it has big industrial capacities specially established for processing of cane sugar."

Russia and Cuba also intend to develop bilateral cooperation in other spheres. An International Russian-Cuban Trade Economic Association Roskuba was established last week in accordance with the inter-government agreement of December 24, 1993. The association includes more than 10 Russian state and commercial structures, for instance the joint stock companies Aeroflot—Russian Air Lines, Ingosstrakh, Vneshtreidinvest, Rosdetspetsprodukt, the state committee Rosvooruzhenie and the Russian Federation Trade Industrial Chamber.

The association's main purposes are to contribute to the development of trade, direct relations between enterprises and organizations, mutual utilization of industrial capacities and investment and to establishment of transnational commercial, finance and industrial structures.

## Political Issues

### Media Barred From Government Meeting 3 Feb

*LD0302083794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0739 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow February 3 TASS—For the first time after the abortive Soviet coup in 1991 reporters were not allowed to a meeting of the Russian Government on Thursday [3 February].

A spokesman of the government press service explained that, according to an order of the head of the government administration, only a correspondent of the government-run "ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA" newspaper will be allowed to attend the meetings [plural as received].

Reporters of news agencies, television networks and other media are barred from now on.

The government is to discuss prospects for agriculture in 1994, support to small-scale enterprises, state control over labour safety, the settlement of the Ossetian-Ingushi conflict, as well as the plan of government work for the first and second quarters of 1994.

### Presidential Staff Restructuring Plan Reviewed

*MK0302111094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 5, 30 Jan-6 Feb 94 (signed to press 1 Feb) p A6*

[L.T.-signed report under the "Details" rubric: "Staff Brings Itself in Line. Russian Presidential Administration Launches Perestroyka"]

[Text] The new Constitution has once again raised the question of authority. The Fundamental Law requires that it be concentrated primarily in the hands of a president. The president, apparently, does not object. Still, can this objective be achieved without a strong and qualified staff—at least as qualified as, say, the government's? After the successful adoption of the Constitution there has been only one answer to the question: the presidential staff should be brought "in line."

They say that at least two reorganization plans competed in the Kremlin lobbies. The author of the first plan was Viktor Ilyushin, the second one was drawn up by Sergey Filatov. As soon as Sergey Filatov gave up his deputy seat to stay on in his office, however, it became clear that it would be he who will evidently head the presidential administration's perestroyka. At present not only has Sergey Filatov prepared a plan for this restructuring, but certain provisions of it have already been implemented. Yeltsin, however, has yet to approve its general concept. So, what is it that Sergey Filatov is going to propose to the president?

In the first place, he suggested that the president's information support should be dealt with in a more thorough fashion. To this end, two analytical centers—for general policy and for socioeconomic policy—will be merged into one. It is not yet clear who will head the new center. One thing is clear, however: Neither Anatoliy Rakitov, nor Petr Filippov, who headed the former analytical structures, are considered among candidates for the new post. The single analytical service will bring together all information flows: government and Federal Assembly documents, reports from the ground, and also mass media publications. At the same time the so-called "situation room," in which information will be processed by special software, will start operating.

Aside from the information service, a center for drawing up presidential programs (possibly under Nikolay Malashev) will be set up.

It is also proposed to expand the powers of the service in charge of relations with the territories and the control administration. There is a plan whereby the control administration will set up its local branches.

Another service will deal with parties and public organizations. It cannot be ruled out that it will be set up on the basis of Georgiy Satarov's Sociopolitical Center. A structure on international problems is also in the works.

To all appearances, the president will want to increase his own control over personnel in various echelons of power, including through setting up appropriate services within his administration.

But for the time being these are only blueprints... But why has Yeltsin not okayed them yet? The president has already approved the post of his representative at the Federal Assembly and appointed Aleksandr Yakovlev to the office. The first step "to bring the staff in line" has thus been taken. What remains is to wait for the next one.

### Chubays: Government Weakened by Resignations

*LD0202164994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1627 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS—The resignation of Yegor Gaydar, Boris Fedorov and Ella Pamfilova has considerably weakened the government, Russian Vice-Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays said.

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow on Wednesday, Chubays said that "there is a threat to the course of reform, although a potential one." "There is not a single decision of the government which could be regarded as a move to slow down or stop reforms," he said.

Chubays stressed that the government will adopt a budget for the first quarter of the year shortly. "Only after that will we be able to understand whether the government is ready to continue the course of reform which was pursued in 1993. It will also become clear whether the government will continue the programme adopted in September 1993," he said.

"Only after that can one give a final assessment of the government reshuffle," the vice-premier said.

Speaking about his plans for the future, Chubays said that he "intends to bear responsibility for the course of privatisation to the end." "The programme of privatisation continues to develop. According to our programme, bigger and more efficient enterprises will be put on auction in February, March and April," he added.

Chubays expressed the confidence that the "programme of privatisation will be implemented in full and within the terms envisaged by the presidential decree."

### Yeltsin Said To Disapprove of New Economists

*LD0202140094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Interfax agency reports, quoting a well-informed source close to Anatoliy Chubays: In the course of Chubays's recent telephone conversation with Boris Yeltsin, the president reacted negatively to the possibility of bringing in academicians [Leonid] Abalkin, [Nikolay] Petrakov, [Stanislav] Shatalin and others to work on adjusting reforms. According to Interfax's information, these economists have recently drawn up a report with a negative assessment of the course of economic reforms pursued for the past two years, and concluding that it was necessary to draw up a new socio-economic strategy.

### Medvedev Remark Seen Heralding Yeltsin Retreat

*PM0302114594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Feb 94 First Edition p 1*

[Valeriy Vyzhutovich report: "The Return of the 'Party-Economic Nomenklatura' to Power in the Regions Could Force Yeltsin To Make Concessions"]

[Text] Nikolay Medvedev, chief of the Administration for Work With Territories under the Russian president's staff, has stated that he does not rule out the possibility of the formation of a kind of "red belt" around Moscow consisting of regions with strong anti-reform and anti-president tendencies. The danger of this in connection with the elections to the local organs of power was also noted by Sergey Filatov at a conference with the president's representatives in the provinces.

The first signs of the return of the party-economic nomenklatura to power at local level were convincingly and graphically demonstrated by Penza Oblast, where 40 out of the 45 seats in the legislative assembly went to former party committee secretaries, deputies of abolished soviets, heads of administrations and their deputies, and directors of plants and sovkhozes. In a report in IZVESTIYA yesterday our correspondent in Penza said that one reason for this triumph was manipulation by the local electoral committee, which formed the district in such a way as to ensure that the number of voters in the city district exceeded the rural electorate two to three times over. However, according to the Statute on Elections approved by the president's edict, that discrepancy in size should not exceed 10 percent.

"This norm, however, is purely a recommendation," Aleksandr Ivanchenko, deputy chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, told your IZVESTIYA commentator. "That is why the outright violations of the Statute on Elections in the actions of the Penza authorities are not being examined. The election procedure in the provinces is determined by the heads of administrations, according to Article 77 of the Constitution, which prescribes that the system of organs of state power in the republics, krays, oblasts, cities of federal significance, the autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrugs is established by the components of the Russian Federation independently. The Central Electoral Commission has no right to impose rigid standards on the regions. These may be established only by the federal law on elections when that is adopted."

The lack of any possibility of effectively influencing the manner and procedure of elections in the provinces is presenting the central authorities with a dilemma: Either they indulge in propaganda rhetoric with routine complaints about local conservatism and the fueling of alarm about imminent nomenklatura revenge or else they adjust their course and bring it closer to the real moods and expectations of the Russian regions.

As Nikolay Medvedev told IZVESTIYA, the election association of democratic forces which some party romantics are ceaselessly calling for is hardly possible. The leader of the administration for work with the regions believes that, no matter what propaganda efforts are made, the representatives of opposition organizations (above all, Communists, Agrarians, and Zhirinovskiy supporters) will score at least 43 percent in the elections. The areas that look most desperate in this regard, according to Medvedev, are Lipetsk, Tambov, Orel, Ryazan, Voronezh.... This feeling is aggravated by the "absence of really structured democratic parties" with broad social support in the provinces.

Judging by this statement, the political distance between the "reformist" federal authorities and the "conservative" local authorities will be narrowed during the elections. There is already candid talk about an adjustment of the economic course and its considerable social orientation. For the first time it is officially confirmed that it is no longer just the premier but also the president himself who will personify and guarantee this course.

Given this prospect, fears of a possible confrontation between the central and local authorities seem exaggerated. It seems that the president himself will not permit anything of the kind: His political course will most probably undergo changes in directions already defined by Viktor Chernomyrdin.

## Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Policy Differences Analyzed

*MK0202125094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 2 Feb 94 p 3*

[Maksim Sokolov analysis: "Relationship Between Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin. Waiting for a Flop"]

[Text] Viktor Chernomyrdin, who was expected to address the Federation Council on Monday, indicated at yesterday's press conference that he is only going to address the parliamentarians after Boris Yeltsin has spoken in the Federal Assembly. The president is expected to attend the joint session of the chambers on 18 February. Relations between the president and the premier are analyzed by KOMMERSANT-DAILY observer Maksim Sokolov:

The president's desire to distance himself from the prime minister's new economic course would have been surprising only if the talk about "humanization," "easing," and so forth of reforms corresponded to reality. If an "era of humanism" does arrive, Yeltsin's saying "It wasn't me who did it," would truly sound absurd—who would voluntarily refuse to accept the title of a good ruler? But it is far simpler and more logical to suppose that far from being made humane, the economic policy is being made only different—because gaining the upper hand at the present moment, to use the language of Marxism, is the detachment of the monopoly bourgeoisie (the raw material lobby) that is oriented to inflation.

The politician cannot obviously ignore the present correlation of forces in the detachments of the monopoly bourgeoisie—hence the presidential ratification of the new Chernomyrdin cabinet. He cannot, however, ignore the fact that the new economic policy has no way of being more popular than the previous one. The novel by Melnikov-Pecherskiy "On the Hills" has one fish merchant reproaching another for dumping: "Think about your neighbors." The rejoinder is: "Our neighbors are not all fish merchants." Realizing that our neighbors are not all directors, it would be strange to gamble on what remains of presidential prestige in a bid just to wet the appetites of that lobby. It is more advantageous by far to preserve those remnants and to demonstrate publicly his absolute readiness to dump Chernomyrdin at the first opportunity.

In this sense, Yeltsin, Gaydar, Zhirinovskiy, and Yavlinskiy—otherwise dissimilar in all respects—are related by their rational or instinctive realization of the fact that given the rather weak Russian finances, the resource for jacking up inflation is very small, and the short-lived and small initial pleasure (if it comes at all) would rapidly deteriorate into the hard and prolonged Ukrainian morning after. Instead of having to suffer through no fault of your own, it is much wiser to step aside, later to reappear in spotless snow-white garb. Such a unanimous desire to let the agrarian-industrial gargantuans get roaring drunk has been dictated by the realization that a flop is inevitable, by the realization of the inability to stave it off, or by the desire at least to turn it to one's own political advantage.

The situation would have been trivial, and Chernomyrdin's prospects totally hopeless, had the premier not realized how eagerly everyone is awaiting his looming debacle. In order to frustrate everyone's expectations of such a thing, a politician during his brief time at bat should try to make the situation irreversible. Either economically—like Gaydar did in letting prices go, thinking that you cannot make them come back with a stick. Or politically—like Premier Pavlov, who in summer 1991 sought for himself dictatorial powers that would, if realized, have shriveled President Gorbachev into a purely decorative figure. Striving for this irreversibility, it would be logical for Chernomyrdin to increase the scope of his powers sharply, pulling into his orbit of influence the "power ministers" so far subordinated to the president on the one hand, and on the other, to get the economy solidly on the needle of inflation injections. Correspondingly, Yeltsin's logic is to retain the "power men" at any price, and pray to God that hangover from the issuance of credits comes as soon as possible.

## Chernomyrdin, Kozyrev Differences Seen Emerging

*PM0202194194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Feb 94 First Edition p 4*

[Maksim Yusin report: "Viktor Chernomyrdin Makes Modifications to Andrey Kozyrev's Stance"]

[Text] Disagreements within the Russian Government, which until recently manifested themselves mostly in the economic sphere, have spread to diplomacy. The foreign policy course associated with the name of Andrey Kozyrev and broadly meeting with the support of Boris Yeltsin has apparently acquired a serious opponent in the shape of Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Until now the only foreign policy issue to which the head of government has devoted attention has been the territorial dispute with Japan. On Tuesday, to the surprise of many, Chernomyrdin expressed his views on the situation in the former Yugoslavia, stating that Russia is categorically against Western air strikes against Bosnian Serb positions. These words were spoken several hours after a news conference given by Andrey Kozyrev at which the minister did not rule out air strikes against the Serbs, Croats, or Muslims, in the event of an attack by them on the UN peacekeeping forces.

All the signs suggest that Chernomyrdin considered the stance of the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs insufficiently firm, and hastened to modify it. The foreign media reacted immediately to the prime minister's words, devoting lengthy commentaries to "the disagreements between Kozyrev and Chernomyrdin."

Smolensk Square [site of RF Foreign Ministry] is not inclined to dramatize the situation. "I believe Chernomyrdin is not in possession of detailed information. In opposing the bombing of Serb positions he was evidently thinking of the 'punitive strikes' for which some politicians in the West are calling. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has repeatedly stated its negative attitude toward such plans. So there are no fundamental disagreements between the prime minister and the minister of foreign affairs," a high-ranking Russian diplomat believes.

Nevertheless, Chernomyrdin's encroachment into the diplomatic sphere is an alarming signal for Andrey Kozyrev. It cannot be ruled out that the prime minister is already thinking about the 1996 presidential elections, in the runup to which he must present to voters not only an economic but also a foreign policy program.

Since Chernomyrdin will most likely look to the conservative part of the electorate, it is logical to assume that his remarks will not infrequently differ from the views of the foreign minister and approach the stances of the national-communist majority in the Duma.

## Gaydar Calls For Political Alliance

*LD0202143294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Yegor Gaydar, leader of the Russia's Choice bloc, has called on the Democratic Russia Movement to set up a political alliance. Such a party could coordinate actions to defend civil rights, counter communist and fascist propaganda, and conduct election campaigns more effectively.

Interfax has learned that Yegor Gaydar notes in a letter sent to the leadership of Democratic Russia that the December elections demonstrated what a broad base the conservatives and right-wing radicals have in our country. The present wavering government could kill the beginnings of stabilization and a new spiral of crisis could open the way to power for forces that would threaten Russia's very existence, Yegor Gaydar's message says. He also stresses that given the circumstances, all democratic forces needed to unite.

## Security Official on Counterintelligence Mission

*MK0202102094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Feb 94 p 1*

["Exclusive" interview with Oleg Lobov, Russian Security Council secretary, by Aleksandr Mikhaylov: "'The Federal Counterintelligence Service Must Protect Russia, Its Economic Interests, and the President.' Certification of Counterintelligence Leadership Has Begun"—place and date not given]

[Text] At the end of January an organizational session of the of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service's Certification Commission took place, chaired by Security Council Secretary O. Lobov. At the end of the session O. Lobov gave an exclusive interview.

[Mikhaylov] What is the composition of the Certification Commission?

[Lobov] It includes counterintelligence service director Golushko and his first deputy Stepashin, as well as the president's national security adviser and officials from the presidential administration and the Security Council apparatus. The commission has the right to invite other people and demand any materials related to certification.

[Mikhaylov] What criteria will be used in certifying the officer corps?

[Lobov] Careful vetting will be ensured, based on criteria which are set on officers of this service, primarily professional requirements. Also their ability to operate under new conditions, their knowledge and experience. And naturally their political views: to what extent a person wishing to work in the new service supports the reform course.

The commission's task is to pursue an extremely objective approach in this process.

[Mikhaylov] A certain lull around the counterintelligence service arouses concern not only within this department itself but also around it. Many are interested in knowing when the certification will end and when the department will be able to get down to real business.

[Lobov] I do not think that there should be any break related to the commission's activity. Subject to certification are approximately 200 to 250 top officials who are to be approved under a presidential edict. This work is fairly responsible. Therefore we believe that the commission must not be rushed. The president signed his edict on 21 January and gave us until 1 March. No one should get nervous. I would like to say that even those who will be dismissed—for age or health reasons—will have considerably greater privileges than those that existed in the what is now known in the country's history as the period of stagnation. There should not be much anxiety that the commission has been set up to undertake any radical turnabouts. It is to ensure a qualified selection of cadres without the participation of those political structures that were earlier involved in such work.

[Mikhaylov] Being head of the Security Council, what would you like the Russian Counterintelligence Service to be?

[Lobov] I think that it should be a service protecting Russia's new interests. It must uphold the reforms and democratization. This service must support the president. For the first time Russia has presidential rule. It was not born easily. Even now it is confronted with tremendous difficulties, but the counterintelligence service is called upon to defend this new presidential rule.

Russia's economic interests are also becoming one of the top priorities. Because it is not easy to understand the meaning of the ruble zone or whether a union with Belarus is beneficial. What about the interests of Russian-speakers in the neighboring states or the former socialist countries? What should interrelations and economic links be like today? This is very complicated work. I would like the counterintelligence service to meet the demands of our times.

## Journalists Readmitted to Restored White House

*PM0202172994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 2 Feb 94 p 1*

[Olga Gerasimenko report: "What It Costs Us To Build A House—the White House"]

[Text] Yesterday, for the first time in the past four months, journalists were allowed into the "White House"—nowadays Government House. In the course of the next two weeks the entire apparatus will move here from Staraya Ploshchad. [Former Interior Minister] V. Barannikov's office has been given to First Vice Premier O. Soskovets, and Minister of Agriculture A. Zaveryukha has been accommodated in A. Rutskoy's former apartments. The building, which was 30 percent destroyed, has been repaired in record time. A total of 7,500 persons were involved in the restoration work, according to information given by Petr Surov, deputy chairman of the government commission. Eight foreign firms, selected on a competitive basis from 209 commercial structures which expressed the desire "not just to earn money but also sincerely to help," were involved in the whole program. For example, the Turkish firm Gamma undertook to restore the facade of the building and accomplished this within 85 days. Whereas Russian construction organizations would not agree to start the work before April. Members of the government commission officially put the total damage caused to the building at 170 billion rubles [R]. As of 1 January 1994 the state had already spent R56 billion and $50 million on the restoration work.

## Legal Information System Commission Statute

*PM0302104994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Feb 94 First Edition p 4*

["Statute on the Federal Commission for the Provision of a Legal Information System Under the President of the Russian Federation"]

[Text] **I. General Provisions**

1. The Federal Commission for the Provision of a Legal Information System [Federalnaya Komissiya po Pravovoy Informatizatsiya] under the president of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the Commission) is a standing deliberative and consultative body under the president of the Russian Federation which ensures the development of a package of measures pertaining to the creation and functioning of a state legal information system and the formation of a single legal information area in Russia which ensures that state bodies, public and other organizations, and citizens are kept well informed on legal matters.

In its activity the Commission is accountable to the president of the Russian Federation.

The Commission exercises its powers in collaboration with the organs of state power of the Russian Federation and the organs of executive power of the constituent republics of the Russian Federation, krays, oblasts, the autonomous oblast, autonomous okrugs, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg.

2. The Commission is guided in its activity by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the laws and other normative acts of the Russian Federation, the edicts and directives of the president of the Russian Federation, the decrees of the Government of the Russian Federation, and the present Statute.

**II. Tasks of the Commission**

3. The Commission's basic tasks are:

the elaboration of proposals on shaping the strategy of state policy in the sphere of providing Russia with a legal information system;

the preparation of a federal program for providing Russia with a legal information system;

the preparation and submission to the president of the Russian Federation and to the Government of the Russian Federation of draft normative acts on questions of the provision of legal information and legal support for information processes and information provision.

the elaboration of proposals for the coordination of work in the sphere of the drawing up, introduction, and development of Russia's state legal information system, the systematization of legislation, and the preparation of the Code of Laws of the Russian Federation and the Code of Acts of the President and the Government of the Russian Federation;

collaboration with the authorized organs of the Commonwealth of Independent States and international organizations on questions pertaining to the creation and the functioning of an interstate legal information system.

**III. The Powers of the Commisison**

4. To tackle the tasks facing it the Commission:

prepares findings on laws on questions of the provision of a legal information system. the provision of information, and the data protection, which come to the president of the Russian Federation for his signature;

examines and prepares findings on draft edicts and directives of the president of the Russian Federation and decrees and directives of the Government of the Russian

Federation on questions of the provision of a legal information system and of legal backup for information processes and the provision of information;

makes recommendations on the implementation of decisions of the president (on his instructions) on questions of the provision of a legal information system;

carries out the assessment of the state of affairs as regards the legal information backup given to organs of executive authority of the Russian Federation and also organizes the verification of the implementation of edicts and directives of the president of the Russian Federation and of decrees and directives of the Government of the Russian Federation concerning questions of the provision of a legal information system;

in accordance with its remit it requests information, documents, and other materials essential for the conduct of the Commission's activity from organs of state management and administration;

it recruits representatives of ministries, departments, and law-enforcement agencies and specialists from science and research organizations to carry out its work.

5. The decisions of the Commission on questions of providing a legal information system are implemented through edicts and directives of the president of the Russian Federation and decrees and directives of the Government of the Russian Federation.

**IV. Organization of the Activity of the Commission**

6. The composition of the Commission, including its chairman, is to be confirmed by the president of the Russian Federation.

The work of the members of the Commission is to be carried out on a nonremunerative basis.

7. Sessions of the Commision are to be held as and when necessary but at least once a month in accordance with the Commission's work schedule. Decisions at sessions are taken by a majority vote of members present.

8. The Commission may set up working parties for the study of questions regarding the preparation of sessions and the conduct of expert work by the Commision.

**V. Support of the Work of the Commission**

9. Organizational and technical support for the Commission's work is supplied by the appropriate structural subunits of the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation.

10. Legal information support for the activity of the Commission is supplied by the State Legal Administration of the President of the Russian Federation, which is the Commission's working apparatus.

## Edict on Forming Legal Information System Commission

*PM0302104794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Feb 94 First Edition p 4*

[Edict No. 223 of the Russian Federation President "On the Formation of a Federal Commission for the Provision of a Legal Information System Under the President of the Russian Federation," dated 28 January 1994, the Kremlin, Moscow and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] In order to step up the process of creating a state system for the provision of legal information in Russia and to ensure the implementation of the 28 June 1993 Edict No. 966 of the Russian Federation president "On the Blueprint for the Provision of a Legal Information System in Russia" I rule that:

1. A Federal Commission for the Provision of a Legal Information System (hereinafter, Commission) is to be formed under the Russian Federation president.

2. Ruslan Gennadyevich Orekhov, chief of the Russian Federation president's State Legal Administration, is to be comfirmed as chairman of the Commission.

3. The commission is to include: Aleksandr Vasilyevich Maslov, chief of a department of the Russian Federation president's State Legal Administration (deputy chairman of the Commission); Vladimir Serafimovich Antipov, chief of a department of the Russian Federation Main Security Administration; Nikolay Alekseyevich Karavayev, chief of an administration of the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office (to be agreed); Boris Valentinovich Kiselev, general designer for the Provision of the Russian Federation's Legal Information System; Vladimir Maksimovich Kuzmin, Russian Federation first deputy justice minister; Vladimir Aleksandrovich Levchenko, first deputy chief of the Russian Federation president's Administration's Information Resources Administration; Vladimir Ivanovich Nekrasov, consultant at the Russian Federation president's State Legal Administration (secretary of the Commission); Lev Andreyevich Okunkov, director of the Institute of Legislation and Comparative Law under the Russian Federation government; Vladimir Ivanovich Radchenko, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Court (to be agreed); Aleksandr Vladimirovich Starovoytov, general director of the Federal Agency for Government Communications and Information under the Russian Federation president; Boris Nikolayevich Topornin, director of the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of State and Law; Igor Grigoryevich Tsyganenko, chief of the Russian Federation government apparatus juridical department; Mikhail Kuzmich Yukov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Arbitration Court (to be agreed).

4. The Statute on the Federal Commission for the Provision of a Legal Informtion System Under the Russian Federation President (attached) is to be confirmed.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
[Dated] The Kremlin, Moscow, 28 January 1994

## Edict on State Policy on Computerization

*PM0302111794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Jan 94 First Edition p 4*

[Edict No. 170 of the Russian Federation President "On the Fundamentals of State Policy in the Sphere of Computerization," dated 22 January 1994, the Kremlin, Moscow, and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] In order to create conditions for coordined action and cooperation between organs of Russian Federation state power and to safeguard the country's security and national interests in the information sphere and in view of the importance of computerization for the formation and development of qualitatively new socioeconomic relations in Russia, I rule that:

1. It is to be stipulated that the main thrust of state policy in the computerization sphere is:

the creation and development of federal and regional computerization systems and networks, ensuring their compatibility and interaction in the single Russian information space;

the formation and protection of the state's information resources as a national asset;

the guaranteeing of national security interests in the computerization sphere;

the provision of common state standards in the computerization sphere, ensuring that they tally with international recommendations and demands;

the formation and implementation of a common state scientific-technical and industrial policy in the sphere of computerization that meets modern world standards;

support for computerization projects that provide for the development of information networks and systems;

the creation and refinement of the system for attracting foreign investments and mechanisms encouraging nonstate structures to devise and implement computerization projects.

2. It is to be stipulated that the implementation of state policy in the computerization sphere is to be ensured by a system of state organs, including management organs under the Russian Federation president, federal organs of executive authority, and the organs of executive authority in the components of the Russian Federation.

3. A computerization policy committee is to be formed under the Russian Federation president using the facilities of the abolished Russian Federation Computerization Committee.

4. A.S. Golubkov is to be appointed chairman of the Computerization Policy Committee under the Russian Federation president, having been released from his previous post.

The committee chairman has two weeks to submit for approval by the Russian Federation president the draft Statute on the Computerization Policy Committee under the Russian Federation president (hereinafter, the Committee).

5. It is to be stipulated that the Committee's basic tasks are:

to participate in devising and conducting state policy in the computerization sphere;

to prepare proposals on national priorities in the computerization sphere;

to devise draft legislative and other Russian Federation normative acts on computerization matters;

to conduct state expert appraisals of state information and automated computer information systems and networks and systems of data bases and banks (aside from special and protected ones), and also to ensure state monitoring of their creation and use;

to devise proposals on ensuring a common state policy in the sphere of certification of resources and systems in the computerization sphere and their implementation;

to coordinate activities on devising federal programs in the computerization sphere and to participate in their implementation;

to devise proposals on refining the mechanism for regulating the information services market;

to perform the functions of state client for federal computerization systems (except for the provision of a legal information system);

to ensure cooperation with foreign countries and international organizations in the computerization sphere.

6. The Russian Federation Security Council secretary has one month to prepare proposals to clarify and demarcate the functions of federal organs of executive authority in solving state information security problems.

The Committee and the Federal Agency for Government Communications and Information under the Russian Federation president, in agreement with with the Russian Federation Government, have one month to submit proposals on the procedure for cooperation between state organs implementing state policy in the computerization sphere.

7. The total number of Committee staffers is to be set at 120.

8. It is to be specified that with regard to treaties, including international treaties, the Committee is the successor of the abolished Russian Federation Computerization Committee.

9. The Russian Federation Government is to:

ensure the transfer of property to the Committee, including the buildings, installations, and funds (in rubles and hard currency) of the abolished Russian Federation Computerization Committee and also ensure the accommodation of the Committee and the "Sistema" scientific-technical center for legal information at the Federal Agency for Government Communication and Information under the Russian Federation president in the premises to be found at the following address: Building 1, Block 48, Myasnitskaya Street;

transfer to the charge of the Committee the research and development organizations and other organizations and enterprises of the abolished Russian Federation Computerization Committee as may be necessary for the implementation of its tasks;

transfer to the charge of the Federal Agency for Government Communications and Information under the Russian Federation president the production enterprises of the former "Kaskad" Central Science and Production Association (in accordance with a list agreed with the committee);

make provision in draft federal budgets, beginning in 1994, for expenditure in order to implement tasks envisaged in this edict and in order to provide supprt and backup for the Committee.

10. This edict enters into effect the moment it is signed.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
[Dated] The Kremlin, Moscow, 20 January 1994

### Former Minister Barannikov Released From Jail

*LD0202160994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1458 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS—Viktor Barannikov, former security minister who was arrested on charges of organising the armed opposition revolt last October 3-4 in Moscow, was released from jail because of health reasons, according to a decision adopted on Wednesday by Prosecutor General Aleksey Kazannik.

The press service of the prosecutor's office said that Kazannik had adopted the decision after acquainting himself with a medical statement which said that Barannikov "needs a special medical examination in hospital to decide on the necessity of surgical treatment which makes it impossible for him to remain in an investigation prison".

Barannikov was released on conditions that he does not leave Moscow.

Barannikov's lawyer had several times complained that his client was suffering from heart problems.

In January Barannikov was transferred from prison to a specially guarded hospital and his lawyer demanded that he be placed under house arrest.

## Economic Issues

### Chubays Views Current Economic, Political Issues

*LD0202175494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1610 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Feb—Anatoliy Chubays regards it as unthinkable to freeze the prices of raw materials and energy sources, since that would, in his view, lead to huge state subsidies for the fuel and energy complex. Answering journalists' questions during a news conference, the vice premier declared that that proposal, which is contained in a report drawn up by academicians Leonid Abalkin, Nikolay Petrakov, and Stanislav Shatalin, was dictated by nothing more than political expediency. "I don't think there is anything in the document that merits serious government discussion," he added.

Anatoliy Chubays also stated that economists (meaning the leaders of the Russian Central Bank) who seriously propose that a fixed exchange rate should be set for the ruble "are not suitable for responsible work in the Russian leadership."

Speaking of the balance of forces within the reformed Russian government, Anatoliy Chubays described it as "very difficult." But the positions of these forces, he continued, "are not set for all time to come." "The very fact that Fedorov and Gaydar have moved on has already brought about a situation in which the arduous and thankless function that they performed will be taken on by other members of the government. So I would not be in a hurry to state that the reformers in the government have suffered a complete reverse and that they have no resources left," the vice premier stressed.

Anatoliy Chubays announced that he has no plans to leave the present Russian government. "My plans are to do everything possible to see that the government conducts the reform policy for which I have worked within it for the past two years."

He also said that he has "good, working" relations with Viktor Chernomyrdin and First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets. Anatoliy Chubays added that he can find a common position with them, even though there are differences of approach.

### Shokhin Discusses Reforms, New Appointments

*LD0202135994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1953 GMT 1 Feb 94*

[Studio interview with Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin by correspondent Matvey Ganapolskiy on 1 February; from the "Horse's Mouth" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Ganapolskiy] A strange thing has happened to our guest, a high-ranking state official and member of the new Russian cabinet. His close associates in the old cabinet refused to join the new one, whereas he did not. Since the new cabinet is already being accused of abandoning reforms, consequently today's interlocutor is abandoning reforms, too. He holds one of the most important fundamental posts, that of economics minister.

Aleksandr Nikolayevich Shokhin, frankly speaking, when I learned not just about your appointment but only about your agreement, why did you agree? You know perfectly well that you will come under fire and already have. Everybody is talking about this, and first of all Chernomyrdin.

[Shokhin] I would like to recall some words from my election speeches, maybe even spoken in this very studio, I do not remember now. I said that when excessive radicalism threatens reforms I become a conservative, and, on the contrary, when I see that reforms are in danger I become a reformer. It is true that the situation is now such that, although reforms are not quite in danger, we all indeed are going through a crucial time, and whether this course of reforms continues or not depends to a great degree on each individual who has stayed in the government. This is the first thing.

Second, I think that it is not that our colleagues in the previous government, Gaydar and Fedorov, left because they felt a turn in the government's course, but to a great degree it is precisely because they left that there is a certain danger of this turn taking place. I have to state with regret that these colleagues of mine—and not only in the previous government but perhaps in two previous governments—have also left because they became frightened, they were afraid to take responsibility, despite the fact that they were the architects of many decisions, architects of reforms, responsible at this difficult period of reforms when many consequences, including the negative consequences of reforms, are having their effect.

[Ganapolskiy] Gaydar and Fedorov were the prime movers of this engine. Now it seems that, since you have stayed, you are a kind of second fiddle, the reverse of the coin, you are secondary.

[Shokhin] You know, it is true that both Gaydar and Fedorov played leading parts in the economic reforms, although there is a nuance which goes unnoticed. For the first nine months of last year Fedorov regarded himself as the main reformer, but after Gaydar came they tried to share the laurels of chief reformer for the remaining four months, and many problems were caused precisely by the fact that there were two chief reformers. The finance minister was directly subordinated to the prime minister, and Gaydar, who returned in the government to take the post of the chief ideologue of reforms, was left without yjr main levers of influence on the economy.

Incidentally, the presidential decree on the reorganization of the federal bodies of power at the center gave Gaydar what he had not had in the last four months of last year. Namely, the decree gave him control over the finance minister, the privatization minister, and the minister for foreign economic ties with CIS countries. That is, the three vice premiers who for the last few months of last year were independent, and had direct access to the premier—I refer to Fedorov, Chubays, and Shokhin. Under the new decree, in its first version, they became ordinary ministers subordinate to Gaydar. Frankly speaking, had Gaydar gone through that period without any dramatic political statements he would have become a real figure in charge of reforms. It seems that this was exactly what the president's plan was—and maybe the premier's too. But Gaydar decided against taking this opportunity, among other things probably because it was becoming clear that he himself would be held chiefly accountable in this scenario. So he courteously—I cannot really think of any other word—ceded responsibility to Chernomyrdin.

[Ganapolskiy] All right, we've been talking about them but they are not here, and so we can't hear what they have to say in return, as I am sure they would. But now, Aleksandr Nikolayevich, let's turn to you, the economics minister. I remember you saying that, whereas before there were abrupt movements, what is being done now should rather resemble working with a scalpel. In other words, the work has to be done with caution. Nonetheless, Mr. Economics Minister, I am looking at you, and there are some kind of hopes pinned on you—hopes of all those who are watching this program, and my hopes too. I would very much like to believe that you are about to say something, not something populist, like things we can only laugh at now, but something realistic.

[Shokhin] We do indeed have to work with a scalpel now, but this certainly does not mean that all the decisions made last year have to be carried out unquestioningly, without taking any new measures. What is the main thing we can do now? To my mind, the main thing is to introduce, as it were, market discipline, using all possible methods, including legislative and economic ones. Now we have no market discipline. Something quite interesting has happened here. All the economic entities have adapted to the mess we have—that is, to non-payments, to the state not meeting its obligations. If the state does not meet its obligations, why should an enterprise do so,

why should it pay taxes? So, the introduction of a strict system under market conditions, in which everybody meets his obligation, is most important. Perhaps there will be a need for a few unusual measures of an administrative nature for installing order here.

[Galapolskiy] What do you mean by unusual measures? I am expecting you to be saying something about taxes. To all appearances they will rise.

[Shokhin] I would not like us to tackle this question in the way this formula was expressed last year—there is no other way of drafting a good budget apart from increasing taxes and cutting expenditure.

[Galapolskiy] So that means you know some kind of secret which hitherto was not known to anyone. What is it now?

[Shokhin] It is no secret. All these secrets long ago became open secrets. This is, first, increasing the sphere of tax by decreasing the burden of tax and by increasing the toughness, the discipline of tax payments, into the budget.

[Galapolskiy] How is this to be done? In our country we have a kind of new police; we have a tax service, and the Ministry of Finance is in operation.

[Shokhin] You asked me a question: how is it to be done? It can be done by means of tax reform. For many months now, even before the elections, I have spoken among other things about the fact that there is a need for more tax rights and financial resources to be transferred not only to the subjects of the Federation but also to the level of local self-government, to the level of the towns and villages, for as little resources as possible to be driven into the center.

We will hardly be able to achieve a replenishment of the treasury from such simple instruments, like increasing the rates of tax. Therefore, I would resolve at some moment, while maintaining the same tax rates, to embark on some broad concessions understandable to all, connected with stimulating investments and particular types of activity, specific types of activity, primarily connected with increasing production of output and services, and so on.

[Ganapolskiy] Is that your point of view or is it a proposal which was somehow discussed?

[Shokhin] These are not just my proposals. These are the proposals of the ministry. They cannot be solely considered the proposals of the Ministry of Economics. We are working closely with the Ministry of Finance, too. I do not think that the Ministry of Economics and the Ministry of Finance should be antagonists. One department lobbies for favorable credits. The Ministry of Economics is usually this kind of department. And the Ministry of Finance will stand guard over financial stabilization.

Unless we agree on ways of implementing credit policy and specific investment projects, there will be many cracks for pro-inflationary decisions to get through. There is a classic example on which we will probably concentrate our efforts. This is the notorious selective policy. Already this phrase has become a term of abuse for the government's opponents, who consider the selective policy a device by which the government will hand out money left and right.

But the most important thing for us now is not simply the distribution of money to certain restricted projects, but the way in which the projects are selected. Up to now money tended to go to plants, regions, industries, industrial ministries, and committees which selected the projects themselves. Naturally money often disappeared without trace. Our objective is to evaluate every project on a banking basis, on commercial criteria perhaps, to assess its effectiveness and the likely return. Only after these projects have been assessed by the same standards, after they have passed through the eye of this needle, will they qualify for financial support, bearing in mind that budget resources available for this purpose are exceptionally small.

[Ganapolskiy] I am very anxious that the primary aim of this program—in the context of our meeting with you, the economics minister, at any rate—should be to extol hope in our viewers. Although you are not new people—you are all well known—there has been a bit of a reshuffle and we are taking a further move toward common sense, toward a kind of logic. If a man like Mikhail Zadornov, not the satirical writer, although as chairman of the parliamentary committee on budget and finance you could say that Zadornov is a kind of satirical writer. But his remarks about economic reform are far from funny. He says it has no point in the immediate future and that a steep rise in inflation is inevitable. He was quite emphatic about it. If he can say this, what does it mean? Why am I asking this? Not because I want you to reject or confirm what he says. My point is this: Despite your good intentions, won't you be simply overwhelmed by the overall tendency which has now come about, by the turnabout in policy?

[Shokhin] The turnabout which has been sketched has been sketched by specific people. This is not a spontaneous protest by, say, the public or the regions, and so on. This is really a carefully planned political show.

[Ganapolskiy] Can you now give me any guarantee that you are not, by your presence in government, an element of a different political show, dictated by the need to leave a few figures associated with reform in the government, so as to avoid a great outcry and strikes? Once you are no longer needed...

[Shokhin, interrupting] Once the deed has been done?

[Ganapolskiy] Yes, I didn't want to be so explicit, once the deed has been done, they can shake your hand and say goodbye.

[Shokhin] I could of course suspect that such a scenario has also been written. However, to be frank, if this

scenario suddenly turns out to be a reality, I will not allow myself to be exploited, of course.

[Ganapolskiy] All right. What do you think the ruble exchange rate will be by the end of the year, what is your figure?

[Shokhin] I believe the rate will grow in line with inflation, more or less, but I would not like to forecast the rate of inflation, so as not to stir up inflationary expectations.

[Ganapolskiy] Do you ask your wife for advice—she is an economist—on state matters?

[Shokhin] I do.

[Ganapolskiy] Have there been many failures in your life?

[Shokhin] All the failures I have had later turned into successes.

[Ganapolskiy] Do you expect an upsurge in strikes? Yes or no?

[Shokhin] There will be strikes.

[Ganapolskiy] What has to happen to force you to resign? One development.

[Shokhin] Only one development and I talked about it earlier: I have to find myself in a situation whereby I feel that I have no levers to influence the situation, and that I am not looked upon as a key figure in the cabinet.

[Ganapolskiy] Did you want to take this post or another one?

[Shokhin] Another one.

[Ganapolskiy] Which one?

[Shokhin] I wanted to retain the post I had been holding.

[Ganapolskiy] That of a vice premier.

[Shokhin] A vice premier in charge of foreign economic ties and the CIS.

[Ganapolskiy] Are you still on good terms with Gaydar?

[Shokhin] My relations with Gaydar were wrecked in December 1992, when he was leaving the government for the first time.

[Ganapolskiy] Do you hope to solve some questions directly with Yeltsin, bypassing Chernomyrdin?

[Shokhin, sighing] Yes.

[Ganapolskiy] I understand. What sport do you go in for?

[Shokhin] Lately I have been playing tennis twice a week for at least two hours, on Sundays, and late in the evening during the week.

[Ganapolskiy] Here comes the final question. It is an abstract one but do try to answer. When shall we have a good life?

[Shokhin] Our forecasts indicate [Ganapolskiy laughing] sometime in 1996.

[Ganapolskiy] Our forecasts indeed! Well, that's the man—Russia's economics minister. Just one quote to end with: After two years' work under Yeltsin and one year's work under Chernomyrdin, one can hardly suspect Shokhin or Chubays of political naivety. That's from the MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI newspaper. I would like to thank you, Aleksandr Nikolayevich, and you, dear viewers. See you in a week's time.

## Yavlinskiy on Economic Prospects for Russia

*BR0202143994 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 2 Feb 94 p 16*

[Interview with economist and Yabloko group leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy by Antonio Pollio Salimbeni in Davos, Switzerland; date not given: "'My Russia Has Reached Rock-Bottom'—Premier Not Up To Job: 'He Makes Empty Promises'"]

[Text] Grigoriy Yavlinskiy is the leader of Yabloko, which means "apple" in Russian, and it is by no mere chance that its first two letters are the same as the first two in his surname. "I am an economist forced to throw myself into politics," he says with a smile. "My party has about 8.5 percent of the vote in this country, and it is enough to get my voice heard." Yavlinskiy is playing the role of the anti-Chernomyrdin at the Davos international economic conference, almost hounding him from seminar to news conference and keeping up a constant stream of dissent. "It is time we had new faces too in Russia."

[Salimbeni] What do you mean, you have no more faith even in Fedorov, in Gaydar?

[Yavlinskiy] The time has come for them, too, to step aside. They both need to take some time out. A new generation of political leaders has now emerged both in and outside Moscow, who are fully in tune with the needs of a radical reform of the Russian economy and Russian society. If it were up to me to form a new government, I would have the names ready: Zadornov, head of the parliamentary commission on the budget and banking, Mikhaylov of the commission on economic policy, Ivanenko of the commission on privatization.

[Salimbeni] There has just been a government reshuffle, so it is unlikely that Yeltsin will make any more changes, don't you think?

[Yavlinskiy] We shall see. There is no doubt about one thing: The individual ministers still count for little in my country, and it is the "premier" who gives the orders. That was how it was with Gorbachev, how it was with Gaydar, so it's hardly likely to be any different with

Chernomyrdin. In my opinion, Russia has reached rock-bottom with this reshuffle and the ejection of Fedorov. The present government is more homogeneous than its predecessor; there will be no more paralyzing conflicts between the finance minister and the minister of agriculture or industry. The problem in this case is that homogeneity serves to slow down the reform, or rather the counterreform.

[Salimbeni] Here in Davos, the prime minister presented himself as the valiant defender of "neomonetarist policies" ...

[Yavlinskiy] I do not believe him. How many times have his inflation forecasts been adjusted? Just ask Fedorov: First it was from 3 to 5 percent, then 8 or 9, and now from 15 to 18 percent. My forecast is 30-percent monthly inflation in early spring, with a drastic drop in production. After a period of relative stability during the summer, we shall have a black autumn: 50 percent a month. It will be nothing short of an explosion.

[Salimbeni] Will Gerashchenko's central bank continue printing money?

[Yavlinskiy] Gerashchenko is on slippery ground, and he too will somehow have to avoid measures that result in the government losing financial control. He will have to choose. The problem is that Chernomyrdin is proceeding as he has done to date, replacing the liquidity that the industrial and military enterprises need. The domestic and foreign markets continue to decline, and no one is laying up currency reserves. There is a constant drain on capital, and there is no stabilization program: $50 billion have vanished to the west and Asia. The pattern of relations between the state and businesses, the state and producers has now become schizophrenic: Either they churn out rubles and distribute them or they fail to pay for the products. If you had been a Russian farmer full of good intentions at the time of the Gaydar government, how would you have reacted if the state had bought your grain without paying for it? And do you know why the farmers were so trusting as to give their grain to the state? They had no choice, they simply would not have been able to sell it any other way. Our distribution system is paralyzed or run by the Mafia. And they managed not to step up the pace of agricultural reform so as not to dismantle the old state trading departments.

[Salimbeni] After the two years of the Gaydar-Fedorov government, the balance was not entirely negative, but the "shock therapy" that we heard so much about only lasted for the first four months of 1992; nevertheless, it reduced the inflation rate and the public deficit.

[Yavlinskiy] That is true. Gaydar took pretty firm action against inflation, he had clear ideas on reform, he did not want to print paper money to meet the needs of the big military and industrial structures. But he very soon lost the support of the people. However, we were living in different times then. Chernomyrdin, today, has no governing strategy in mind. I do not even believe he can have seen the story of his own life. The only thing he believes in is increasing production at any cost, without considering structural issues, those of a new balance of power, the currency, the urgent need to give the ruble a real market value, to resume monetary relations between Russia and the other CIS states on a realistic footing.

[Salimbeni] Does Yavlinskiy the reformer also accept the idea of the "great ruble"?

[Yavlinskiy] First and foremost, both Russia and the other states must be aware of what is happening. When the Ukrainian Government contacted me to ask advice on monetary policy, I asked whether they had any idea of the status of their balance of payments, of their domestic and foreign debt. Nothing, they knew nothing. A great black hole. My dear friends, we will get together some other time, I told them.

[Salimbeni] What is your greatest fear at this time?

[Yavlinskiy] A raising of nationalist barriers: The political orientation and the very mentality of the team of ministers have narrowed as regards both financial and international policy. The priorities have changed. Look, I have no faith even in all this talk about western aid. They profess themselves worried, but at heart they know we shall be able to get by. What is more, not even I think that western capital can solve our problems: Neither the government nor Russian society are ready to make use of it. What I would ask of the West is massive technical support in drawing up the programs for reforming the financial and industrial structures, in getting the state to exercise its proper functions. U.S. Vice President Gore was wrong to launch the "less shock, more therapy" slogan. Of course, it is a fine idea in theory, but, as my grandmother would say, it is better to be rich and happy than desperate.

## Acting Finance Minister Urges Tighter Controls

*LD0202221994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2042 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Acting Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin called for keeping the price rises at a monthly rate of 12 percent and for keeping the national budget deficit within eight to 10 percent of the gross domestic product in 1994.

In his first public speech after his appointment Dubinin told the Duma Budgetary Commission Wednesday night that there had to be no replay of 1993 "when the budget indices were unduly high." That approach, he said, was justly criticized by numerous ministries who complained of shortage of funds, in particular for defense orders and agriculture.

"We agree that the projects planned in 1993 for the first quarter (of 1994) have to be financed. We are looking for additional sources of revenue and believe that financial priorities must be set," Dubinin said. In his words, 4 Tn [trillion] rubles will be appropriated for that purpose in the first quarter of 1994 but "now priorities are being set for using this amount."

The acting minister said: "We know that tax revenues in the first quarter of the year will amount to 8.5 Tn rubles and we will receive nothing over that amount. Therefore the expenses must be kept within these limits. We also know for sure that the tax revenues will not exceed 80 to 100 Tn rubles during the year."

Dubinin thought that significant revenues were not to be expected from foreign trade because the export prices of Russian goods have become nearly equal to world market prices.

He said that the 1994 budget draft would be submitted to the government before Monday, February 7.

### Gerashchenko: 1994 Budget Parameters Not Defined

*LD0202154294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1137 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Central Bank Governor Viktor Gerashchenko told Interfax in an exclusive interview that the budget parameters had not been defined yet for the first quarter of 1994.

He said that over the past three weeks the Finance Ministry had been trying hard to cut down spending and find new sources of income. The Central Bank's and Finance Ministry's common task is to make use of available resources and capital through economic levers.

Although the Central Bank's emission mechanism helps cover expenses, it has an inflationary effect and so will therefore be used as little as possible, said Gerashchenko.

Speaking about the government's pledge to repay the debt of 4 Tn rubles to the defense industry, agricultural complex, and state-run enterprises in the first quarter of 1994, Gerashchenko said that these payments must be made over a longer period. Right now the most essential payments should be made, he continued. The repayment of those debts which are not so urgent should be delayed to avoid an outburst of cash in the first quarter of 1994.

Gerashchenko described Acting Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin as someone who realistically approaches difficult problems.

See one of the forthcoming issues of Interfax-Exclusive for Gerashchenko's complete interview.

### Budget Expenses Close to 61 Trillion Rubles in 1993

*LD0102172194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1620 GMT 1 Feb 94*

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[Text] Moscow February 1 TASS—Russian budget expenses in 1993 were close to 61 trillion roubles and comprised 37.8 per cent of the gross national product, according to the Finance Ministry.

The figure for 1992 equalled 33 per cent and the 1993 increase was caused mostly by the budget article called "Other Expenses" which the ministry did not specify in its report on Tuesday.

The "other expenses" grew from 13.4 per cent in 1992 to 21.4 per cent in 1993.

Defence expenses dropped from 14.3 to 12.4 per cent.

Although the major share of appropriations goes to the national economy, it decreased from 34.5 to 27.3 per cent.

More money was allocated to "social and cultural measures" - 23.1 per cent in 1992 and 24.9 per cent in 1993.

Approrpiations for science, police, governing and controlling bodies, as well as for foreign economic activities varied from 1.6 to 5.1 per cent in 1993.

Finance Ministry experts said that budget spendings increased because of credits for grain purchases in Russia, for conversion and loans to CIS states.

## Military Issues

### Report on Resignations in Special Secret Subunit

*LD0202204194*

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1700 GMT on 2 February, in its "Vesti" newscast, broadcasts a 3-minute report by correspondent Gindileyev on problems in the security service. The announcer introduces the report by saying: "Our correspondent met with another representative of the security service today. He said that an entire subunit of the Interior Ministry has resigned."

The correspondent then takes up the story. He says: "The 'Vympel' team, one of the most secret subunits of the former KGB'S directorate of intelligence services, was created in 1979. Its aim was to carry out special operations, often military operations on the territory of foreign states, for example, such as the seizure of Amin's palace in Afghanistan. Nobody would ever know about this unique subunit if it were not for the October storm at the White House. Officers of 'Vympel' and the 'Alfa' team at that moment refused to shoot and seized the White House without a single shot. They saved thousands of lives. It seems likely that some politicians did not like this disobedience. The Russian president has issued an edict according to which 'Vympel' has been transferred to the Interior Ministry. As a result, 110 out of 180 operational officers of 'Vympel' have resigned." The video shows the building of the former KGB, then views of Afghanistan, then the seizure of the White House in Moscow in October, and the faces of Khasbulatov and Rutskoy when they surrendered. The video then cuts to show the back of an unidentified person in a car speaking about resignations in the "Vympel" team, who says:

"It is possible that we are talking emotionally at the present time but nevertheless, the opinion of many employees shows that this decree messed up, or more precisely, put an end to the existence of subunits such as 'Vympel.' In practice, there will be nobody there soon. It seems likely that practically the entire officers' corps will leave. Probably some of them will go to commercial structures."

The announcer then concludes the report by saying: "It is clear that we should pay special attention to the fate of these people. In the end, peace of mind and security of the leaders of the state themselves depend on where they will go and whom they will join."

### Missile Deactivation Progress Reported

*PM0302111194 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0700 GMT 30 Jan 94*

["Exclusive" report over video entitled "When Missiles Are Dying..." detailing missile deactivation process, attributed in the credits to "Radar" Studio and Ministry of Defense Central Television and Radio Studio, August-December 1993; from the "Test Range" program]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Correspondent over video captioned "Radar-TV" showing missile transporters on the move] The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaties concluded between the United States and Russia and known as START I and START II have, apart from verbal support, evoked no steps in response from the other members of the nuclear club. START II is yet to be ratified by Russia. Meanwhile the latter's missiles, including the heavy SS-18, continue to be removed from operational sites. This work was at its height during the summer and fall of last year. As in the past, missile men and defense experts displayed prompt and coordinated action at all the stages of the reduction process right up to the removal of missiles from silos and the draining off of missile fuel components. On the one hand, they were working under pressure of a tight schedule since every missile had to be removed from alert duty on strictly preset days and hours, while on the other hand they had to ensure that all the operations were carried out without any dangerous pollution of the environment ensuing. [video shows missile being removed from silo, personnel donning gas masks, fuel being siphoned off] [passage omitted]

[Correspondent over aerial view of missile test range captioned "Radar-TV, VoyenTV"] Our industry cannot do something that it was never equipped to do, in other words to salvage simultaneously up to 2,000 ICBM's, hundreds of thousands of tonnes of special fluids and nuclear and chemical munitions. What is more, we lack the necessary resources.

This also applies to cleaning up the Russian Missile Forces' sole test range which covers an area of 175,000 hectares. During test launches certain parts of the delivery vehicle separate. They contain toxic rocket fuel residue. All this does not burn up in the atmosphere but falls to the ground and into water reservoirs. Two years ago the leadership of the Missile Forces together with (?"Transres"), a special science and production center, tried for the first time to carry out a mass cleanup of the test range, using their own resources. More than 2,000 tonnes of delivery vehicle debris was collected, but only a small part of the test range was cleared.

By agreeing to sweeping reductions of the most powerful and technically most sophisticated missiles, Russia has not only forfeited its status as an influential partner in resolving strategic issues, but it also finds itself in a most disadvantageous position in terms of the need to observe all the necessary ecological and environmental protection safeguards during the elimination of the stockpiled weapons. [video shows aerial view of missile test range, test launch, computer graphics, debris littering the test range] [passage omitted]

[Correspondent over video of operation to remove nose section from silo, captioned "RADAR TV"] Today Russia is reaping the fruits of the most critical period of its military policy when, as a result of cuts in military production, it was forced to extend the guaranteed period of service of nuclear missiles on alert duty. Consequently, the safe service life of 30 percent of these missiles has already expired. And another 30 percent will turn into a potential nuclear threat in two years' time. Russia is faced with the task of scrapping more than 20,000 nuclear munitions by the year 2000. And since the pace of the salvage process is very slow, we may again fall hostages to the nuclear threat, but this time because of being incapable of carrying out mass industrial salvaging of such a vast quantity of nuclear charges.

The radiation background at the launch site is only just above the permissible limit [video shows counter reading]. Furthermore, all the operations are controlled by several specialists simultaneously. Therefore the removal of the nose section at the launch site is by no means the most dangerous operation. [video shows operations above ground and detailed view of interior of missile silo] [passage omitted]

[Video shows nose section removal operation over largely unintelligible exchanges between officers] [passage omitted]

[Unit Commander A. Gribov, over video of site being guarded by a soldier, sign reading "Mines," nose section being loaded onto truck] It has to be said that this is by no means the least important or worst of our weapons. Fortunately, it has never been used in practice. But the tests that were carried out showed that both the missile and the warheads are excellent and highly effective.

[Correspondent over closeup of nose section being loaded onto truck] The nuclear nose cone of the SS-18 missile can carry 10 nuclear warheads. At the moment there is nothing to compare with it in the world.

This unusual cargo will be carried in this neat truck only as far as the nearest depot. Before entering the industrial

salvaging process, it has a difficult journey along worn-out Russian roads ahead. [video shows warhead being loaded, truck on the move] [passage omitted]

[Aleksandr Volkov, first deputy commander in chief of Strategic Missiles Forces, over video of missiles on railroad platforms in a siding in snowy location] We have established two bases for scrapping missiles, the Surovatikha base, and Pibanshur near the city of Izhevsk.

[Correspondent over video of missiles being dismantled in large hangar] Pibanshur and Surovatikha are Russia's first bases for scrapping ICBM's using resource-saving technologies. Following the removal of the dangerous fuel components, each SS-17 and SS-18 missile will be carefully dismantled. In this way the Surovatikha base will be able to scrap more than 40 heavy missiles a year. This means that thousands of tonnes of expensive metals and alloys will be returned to industry.

As is known, the previous class of missiles—intermediate- and shorter-range missiles—were scrapped by means of explosions. To the general amazement of our compatriots, billions of rubles were turned into ashes and smoke, quite apart from the damage that was done to the environment. This is why the two new enterprises—which, incidentally, have been set up by the missile forces themselves within their department—unquestionably mark a long-overdue step toward savings of state resources spent on disarmament.

For the time being inadequate funding is hampering the entire federal program for recycling ecologically dangerous materials from scrapped weapons. The Surovatikha base could make up this shortage of funds through the sale of part of the salvaged materials to other enterprises for processing. But the latter do not have any money either.

While a search for coordinated action by the ministries and departments interested in industrial recycling is under way at the top, the missile men have to bear the full burden of this work themselves. [video shows detailed views of salvage operation with camera switching back to railroad siding at the end] [passage omitted]

[Correspondent over video of an SS-18 on a truck, followed by computer graphics, captioned "RADAR-TV" and "VoyenTV"] To replace the multiple reentry vehicle missiles which are being scrapped, Russia is planning to build another multiple-warhead missile [mnogoblochnaya raketa] based on the SS-25. However, as distinct from the heavy SS-18 missile, the new missile cannot be guaranteed to penetrate the opponent's anti-missile defenses, since the SS-18 was capable of releasing, in addition to its 10 warheads, up to 1,000 false targets into orbit. Scientists at the Moscow Heat Technology Institute intend to make up for this forced minus-point in the design of the nose section of the new missile by making these missiles easily reequipable into the "Start" system which can be used for launches for scientific purposes either right now or in the event of arms reduction. Admittedly, the engineers and designers will have to find the money to further develop this project themselves in order to preserve the scientific potential of Russia's only institute of this kind. [video shows computer graphics demonstrating new missile, brief shot of interior of scientific institute, mockup of "Start" system] [passage omitted]

## Federal Assembly

### Senators Protest Chernomyrdin Absence From Assembly

*LD0302122994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[Report by correspondent Yelena Kuznetsova from the Federation Council]

[Text] The prime minister's speech was expected. When it turned out that Viktor Chernomyrdin was chairing the presidium session, the work of deputies nearly reached an impasse and was almost reduced to a discussion about the place of the Federation Council in the political and power structure. Senators regarded the fact that the prime minister was busy as a political step aimed at diminishing the role of the upper chamber. It was the first time that claims were made to Vladimir Shumeyko, who, in the opinion of people's electors, did not ensure that the head of the government was present and thus, I quote, behaved dishonorably.

Work returned to normal when Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin appeared on the rostrum and gave a forecast on the social and economic development in 1994. Its main theses are:

—to conduct a moderately tough financial policy, which would allow the inflation rate to drop to 20 percent—in January it was higher due to the political situation. Figures of 7 to 9 percent are being expected by the end of this year;

—to make the financial and tax policy tougher;

—to ease restrictions on exports and to render support to the country's own manufacturers.

The economics minister agreed to the criticism that insufficient attention is being paid to the social policy. He assured those present that effective measures will be adopted in the near future.

This was not the last meeting with the government on Thursdays because, as a result of a name-vote held for the first time, a decision was adopted to wait for the prime minister's appearance, and to hear his report at any time. Thus, it was said that the government leadership should take note of the opinion of the upper chamber that will be giving recommendations regarding amendments to the economic policy.

## Yeltsin's 24 Jan Appeal to Council Viewed

*MK0202112094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 2 Feb 94 p 1*

[Boris Sherman report under "The Kremlin" rubric: "Authorities Tired of Truce. President Tired of Standstill"]

[Text] The peaceful or, at any rate, tacitly indifferent coexistence of Boris Yeltsin's administration and the newly elected chambers of Russia's Federal Assembly must have appeared to the republic's president unconscionably drawn-out as early as five weeks after the day of the December elections. Having signed on 24 January his Appeal to Members of the Federation Council and Deputies of the State Duma, he seems to be demonstrating a firm intention to end the situation of mutual neutrality and noninterference that he finds unusual and clearly unpleasant.

The document that is being circulated on an ever wider scale on Bolshaya Dmitrovka and Krasnopresnenskaya Naberezhnaya [respectively, seats of the Federation Council and the Duma] these days speaks in form only about a purely procedural problem: the president reminds the deputies that in setting the 50-percent quorum necessary for the chambers to approve their temporary rules of procedure, they proceeded from the number of seats that were actually distributed in the 12 December elections—six seats in the Duma and seven in the Federation Council, while they did not consider at all the seats remaining vacant. Such a violation gives Boris Yeltsin occasion to express "extreme anxiety" over the fact that, already in the first days of their work, parliamentarians "violated the most important provisions of the Constitution," and that "real prerequisites have been created for the making, in the future by either of the chambers, decisions not only on rules of procedure but also on federal laws and other decisions" contrary to the requirements of the Fundamental Law. "The Russian Federation Constitution does not provide for the presence of chambers of the Federal Assembly consisting of 171 and 444 deputies, hence the decisions of such chambers cannot be recognized as constitutional," the president remarks in an easily distinguishable metallic voice.

In the meantime, the method for determining the quorum causes extremely tense debates already in the first hours that the Duma and the Federation Council were in session. Going back to what seems to be a closed-door session threatens them with a tremendous scandal. Accepting the president's claims would amount in the case of the State Duma, in particular, no more and no less than cancellation of the results of the voting for its chairman: Ivan Rybkin won the race for the position of speaker by one single vote, gathering a false quorum, as Yeltsin sees it.

One should hardly see in the president's demarche the desire to dismiss the agro-communist, who so far is acting quite modestly and circumspectly. Mr. Yeltsin must have set a much bigger task: to remind the deputies that they all still walk under the president, as well as to demonstrate that this president sits up high and sees far afield.

As a matter of fact, the standoff indicated by the Kremlin's resolute action will inevitably call for an arbiter. In the given case, it may only happen to be the Russian Federation Constitutional Court. The Constitutional Court now proves to have regained its ambitious hopes and wishes just in time. A worthy cause is all that was lacking to go back to the line of fire. Well, here it is.

## Chairman of Defense Committee Elected

*PM0202153994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Feb 94 p 1*

[Aleksandr Pelts report and KRASNAYA ZVEZDA note under the general heading "Federal Assembly Upper Chamber Committees Start Work"]

[Text] The Federation Council spent its morning session yesterday in various committees. During these sessions, the final composition of these committees was determined, and there were also discussions about the paramount questions which the upper chamber's deputies will soon be addressing. A chairman of the Committee for Security and Defense Questions was also elected. This was Petr Shirshov.

Compared to some of the other committees, this one is not particularly large. It comprises only 18 people, one of whom is a woman. The committee members represent practically all of Russia's regions, including the eight Far Eastern regions. It is to be noted that the committee's deputy chairman is a seaman, Captain First Rank Petr Premyak, who is also chairman of Kamchatka Supreme Soviet of People's Deputies. The committee also comprises many former and "active" servicemen. For example, readers are quite familiar with Committee Member Ruslan Aushev who basically needs no introduction. Other committee members are just as well known—Maritime Kray Administration Head Yevgeniy Nazdratenko, and also defense industry lobbyist Petr Romanov who ran for the post of deputy chairman of the upper chamber.

They will be expected to tackle a considerable work load. They know about the decision by Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense, to establish a special group to cooperate with the upper chamber committee, including cooperation on security and defense issues. It will comprise four people.

Following discussion of the main spheres of its activity, the committee leaders proceeded to allocate the responsibilities and work organization of the apparatus.

From the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA file: Committee Chairman Petr Petrovich Shirshov is a major general of the reserve. He was born in 1945. He is a Russian. He graduated from Orenburg Higher Surface-to-Air Missile

Command School. He has served in the Air Defense Forces. He has performed military service in 12 locations. His most recent posting is the city of Bryansk.

### Defense Committee Official Outlines Work Plans

*PM0202155594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Feb 94 First Edition p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Committee in Action"]

[Text] The Federation Council Committee for Security and Defense Questions has begun work. Yesterday there was a meeting with representatives of the Defense Ministry, and a special group was formed for dealings with the Federation Council Committee. Your ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this by Petr Shirshov, chairman of the Committee for Security and Defense Questions.

In its work the committee intends to "cooperate with the corresponding committees of the State Duma and also to expand contacts with the corresponding committees of the CIS countries." Petr Premyak, deputy chairman of the Committee for Security and Defense Questions, believes that the committee especially needs to cooperate with the corresponding committees in the Ukrainian parliament and in the parliaments of the Baltic states.

In Petr Shirshov's opinion, the committee will be guided in its activity by the Russian Federation Constitution, will also monitor the execution of the laws, and where necessary will prepare proposals and submit them in the form of legislative initiatives.

### Federation Council Adopts Procedural Rules

*LD0202142394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1234 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS—The Federation Council adopted today on the whole the procedural rules of the upper chamber, which consist of 13 chapters, as well as a resolution on the procedural rules of the first Federation Council. The legislators discussed amendments to two out of the three parts of the rules, which deal with general procedural regulations of holding sessions of the upper chamber, as well as the procedure of the discussion of laws adopted by the State Duma.

The Editing Commission will submit its remarks concerning the third part of the procedural rules before March 1. This part deals with the discussion of issues, which, in accordance with Article 102 of the Constitution, are within the authority of the federation Council. These include the approval of the changing of borders between subjects of the Russian federation, of presidential decrees on imposing martial law, the taking of a decision on whether or not Russian troops should be used outside the Russian territory, the naming of the date of presidential elections, the impeachment of the president and so on.

Members of the Federation Council assigned the Committee for the Affairs of the Federation, the Federal Treaty and Regional Policy to take part in the forthcoming talks in Moscow between Russian and Tatarstan on concluding a federal treaty. They decided as well to assign the committee to analyse the problem of starting negotiations with the Chechen Republic and to report the results to the upper chamber.

A break until Thursday was announced at the session of the Federation Council. The agenda of the Thursday meeting includes a government report about its intentions in the sphere of the financial, crediting, tax, agrarian and industrial policy. Initially it was planned that the report would be made by head of the government Viktor Chernomyrdin. Today, however, Chairman of the Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko did not specify today who would make the report.

### Yeltsin Urges Parliament To Harmonize Procedural Rules

*LD0202191294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1721 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 22 for 2 February 1994; by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin, edited by Boris Grishchenko]

[Text] President Yeltsin has called on deputies of the Federal Assembly to bring the temporary rules of the Federation Council and the State Duma in line with the Russian Constitution. In compliance with the Constitution, the houses of the Federal Assembly pass decisions by a majority vote from the total number of members of the Federation Council and deputies to the State Duma correspondingly in all cases except where the Constitution says otherwise, reads the president's address spread on Tuesday in the Russian parliament.

When the houses passed the temporary rules, the notion "the total number of deputies" was interpreted as the number of effectively elected of each of the houses. In line with the Constitution, the total number of deputies in the Duma is 450 and in the Federation Council—178, while elected were 444 and 171 respectively.

The interpretation of the notion "total number of deputies" as the number of the elected deputies suggests the recognition that the houses consist of a different number of deputies than that envisaged by the Russian Constitution. Thus the decisions of the houses cannot be considered constitutional, believes the Russian president. It follows that when the houses adopted their provisional rules, deputies violated provisions of Articles 95, 102 and 103 of the Russian Constitution, said Yeltsin.

The presidential message says that the loose interpretation of the constitutional norms enables both houses of the Federal Assembly in the future to adopt laws and other decisions contrary to the requirements of the Russian Constitution.

IF Note: In connection with the president's message, parliamentary observers note that the speaker of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin had received 223 votes in his favor to become speaker. This means he was elected by a one vote majority out of the number of the elected deputies. The points made by Yeltsin virtually call into question the fact that Rybkin was elected constitutionally, which, some experts believe, could lead to a deterioration in the relationships between the president and the Duma.

Meanwhile, at the Federation Council session Wednesday, deputies turned down the presidential amendments which proposed to count votes out of the total number of the Federation Council members, not from among those elected. If passed, such a decision would have meant the relieving of the chairman of the Federation Council and his deputies and the election of members of Federation Council committees.

## Rybkin Defends Election as State Duma Chairman

*LD0202125894 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] The Russian president has written a letter to deputies of the State Duma. It says that the free interpretation of articles of the Constitution creates a precedent which the chambers could use in the future to put through federal laws and adopt other decisions in circumvention of the Constitution. What is at issue is the procedure for the election of the chairman of the lower house of the Russian parliament—the State Duma. The letter states that the election of Ivan Rybkin, the chairman of the house, formally violated the Russian Constitution. The point is that Ivan Rybkin required 225 deputies' votes for election, half the number of seats in parliament, rather than 223, half of those elected. This is what our parliamentary correspondent has just reported. This was also reported by AFP. We asked Ivan Rybkin for clarification on this score.

[Begin Rybkin recording] I would like to say that in the French parliament it is sufficient for the absolute majority of its members to be present in the chambers for there to be a quorum. This is calculated from the number of seats actually occupied in the house. A motion put to the vote is regarded as adopted if it gains an absolute majority of votes cast. A majority of the majority.

We have chosen a stricter option, according to the usual method that was worked out in the standing orders of the Congress of People's Deputies and other legislative bodies of Russian power. Namely, we always calculate the quorum from the number of actually elected deputies. I believe that this norm is a sensible and thoroughly considered one and if there are any variant interpretations in future, we can remove them. [end recording]

We also asked what would happen if this matter were to be taken to the Constitutional Court and the court decided that Chairman Rybkin should stand down and deputies elect a new chairman. This is what Ivan Rybkin replied.

[Begin Rybkin recording] The chairman of the State Duma should be an example of obedience of the law and that will, undoubtedly, be the case. But I also believe that what has been worked out and achieved through long years of Russian practice should be respected by all branches of power. [end recording]

## Rybkin Reports on 'Working' Talks With Yeltsin

*MK0302105094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 3 Feb 94 p 1*

[Dmitriy Kuznets report in the "Duma" column: "Ivan Rybkin Has Coordinated Questions on the State Budget With the Premier. Sergey Dubinin and Viktor Gerashchenko Have Been Tasked To Respond to Them"]

[Text] On 4 February the State Duma intends to hear from acting Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin and Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko. Dubinin and Gerashchenko will apparently have to report on budget guidelines for the first quarter. Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin yesterday met with the premier and apparently discussed with him plans for the lower house's work on the budget and economic course.

Similar "working" negotiations with Boris Yeltsin, according to Ivan Rybkin, concerned the address the president intends to make in the Federal Assembly at a joint session of its houses on 18 February. Rybkin refused to disclose its specific propositions.

Rybkin "relates calmly" to the president's address to parliament, in which the latter is accused of violating constitutional norms, in particular in electing the Duma speaker. "We have developed normal working relations with Boris Nikolayevich," Rybkin stated.

Indeed, during his first few weeks in the high post the speaker has distanced himself a little from the communist majority in the Duma to which he owes his election. Intensive talks with the president and the premier will apparently have a greater impact on Rybkin's position than his party affiliation. The meetings with the premier are especially important: Rybkin can become the most active supporter of the new government's economic initiatives in the Duma.

The speaker displayed "party indiscipline," which is becoming increasingly characteristic of him, when he supported the candidacy of Vladimir Podoprigora for the post of Duma apparatus chief. The leaders of the

Russian Federation Communist Party, the Democratic Party of Russia, and other factions of communist orientation rejected that proposal, saying the Vladimir Podoprigora, being chairman of the Federation Council's Foreign Relations Committee, cannot be chief of apparatus in another house. In spite of the obvious juridical nonsense, however, the Duma speaker continued to insist on the Russia's Choice candidacy.

No preliminary agenda for the State Duma plenary session, which is due on 4 February, has been defined yet. Faction leaders practically unanimously sent the declaration on the succession of the Federal Assembly to be reworked. As Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin stated yesterday, "before the draft reaches the stage of discussion at the session, it will undergo substantial changes." According to Rybkin, the document will be executed as a declaration without any political, let alone scandalous, implications.

Members of the Duma Council failed to reach agreement on the issue of amnesty timed to coincide with the adoption of the new constitution. Fearing that any decision on the number and nature of crimes falling under the amnesty will cause censure in various parts of society, the faction leaders decided to postpone the discussion of the edict indefinitely. The same sad fate befell the Criminal Code, which was originally to be discussed as a package with the amnesty law.

## Chernomyrdin Offers Choice of 5 Sites for Duma

*LD0202184694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1700 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin had a meeting with State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin on Wednesday to discuss the place of a new residence for the lower chamber of the Russian parliament.

The Duma is now situated in the former Comecon building and lawmakers complain that it is incovenient for work.

The government offered parliamentarians five new places, including the building of the Russian Management Academy in the south west of the capital and two buildings in downtown Moscow.

No reports whether the prime minister and the Duma speaker had reached any agreement were available.

However, several lawmakers said that the Duma continues to insist that the former parliament building which was pounded by tanks during the October revolt and then transferred to the government, be returned to the legislature.

## Declaration on Inheriting Supreme Soviet Rights Viewed

*MK0202101094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 2 Feb 94 p 1*

[Petr Zhuravlev, Dmitriy Kuznets report under the "Duma" rubric: "Authorities Tired of Truce. Deputies Dream of Rights and Supreme Soviet Property"]

[Text] A draft declaration on the new Russian parliament's right of succession as the country's top legislative body is supposed to be submitted to the upcoming plenary session of the State Duma on 4 February. The draft is being submitted on behalf of the Duma committee on legislation while its direct author, to all appearances, is committee head Vladimir Isakov.

It is supposed, first and foremost, that the declaration will be a joint document of the State Duma and the Federation Council which, "recognizing the historical responsibility for the fate of parliamentarianism and expressing anxiety at the state of the legal system" of the country, state their claim to the entire legacy of the Congress and the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. True, the greater part of the powers of soviets is recognized as forfeited, and the right of succession is being declared only to that part which "does not contravene the Constitution of the Russian Federation."

All the laws passed by the Supreme Soviet that do not contravene the Constitution are recognized as "having the same juridical power" as the laws passed by the Duma. As for edicts, Mr. Isakov here goes back to his pet idea of ousting the president and the government from the realm of lawmaking. Edicts and "other normative acts" contravening laws passed by the Supreme Soviet and the Federal Assembly are proposed to be recognized invalid.

Claims to "rights of succession" in the legislative sphere, however, is not the whole story. The present deputies also long for the Supreme Soviet's and the Congress' property. Considering the current problem of accommodation for the parliament, one can suppose that what they have in mind first and foremost is the building at 2 Krasnopresnenskaya Naberezhnaya, and only then do they have in mind the car pool, the vacation home, and so forth. In addition to the White House, parliamentarians are showing a certain interest in the mass media founders rights remaining from the Supreme Soviet, and in that body's right to representation in international organizations.

To be quite fair, it is necessary to say that following a long process of approvals and introduction of amendments, the text would probably lose much of its bite. But it is simply impossible to describe the draft declaration as the first attack "along the president-parliament front of the new convocation."

One can only add that the above draft does not quite correspond to the Constitution, which specifies that

parliament passes "laws and decrees," and there is no mention of any declarations. Besides, Mr. Isakov's intention to reduce presidential edicts to the level of economic management directives does not agree with the text passed on 12 December. At any rate, the Duma bloc of Communists and Agrarians, to which Vladimir Isakov belongs, is known for its program aspiration to dispute the referendum results.

### State Duma 'May Not Ratify' Treaty With Georgia

*LD0302092994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0911 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 3 TASS—Leaders of all factions of the State Duma, including Yegor Gaydar, expressed concern over the military aspect of the Russian-Georgian treaty which is to be signed by President Boris Yeltsin in Tbilisi on Thursday and warned him they may not ratify it.

"The provisions of the treaty envisaging, in particular, a further agreement on assisting Georgia in creating its armed forces, in arming them and providing for them weapons, military equipment and technologies can, as we believe, detsabilise the situation in the Caucasus and become a barrier for the ratification of the treaty by the State Duma", they said in a letter to the president signed by Speaker Ivan Rybkin.

Yeltsin, in his turn, said before departing for Tbilisi on Thursday that the treaty will not be submitted for parliament ratification until Georgia settles the conflicts in its two self-styled regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

## Regional Affairs

### North Caucasus Leaders Meeting With Kozyrev

*MK0202113094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Feb 94 pp 1, 3*

[Report by Natalya Pachegina in the "Diplomacy" column: "'Balkanization' of North Caucasus Is Not Beneficial to the Russian Federation, and the Foreign Affairs Ministry Hastens To Announce This on the Eve of Yeltsin's Visit to Georgia"]

[Text] Anticipating possible suspicions about the "true" aims of Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Georgia scheduled for 3 and 4 February (some see the warming of Georgian-Russian relations as a "military-political alliance;" others, a recurrence of Russia's imperial ambitions), on 31 January Russian Federation Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev met with leaders of the North Caucasian republics, apparently disarming them immediately with an announcement about the existence of a certain Russian strategic line in the Caucasus. Its contours, the minister did not neglect to note, are formed "on the basis of carefully weighed balance of state and regional interests." In proposing to the dispassionate presidents a "state view" on the future of Russian-Georgian relations (as is known, at the Federation Council session on the same day they opposed the signing of a full-scale treaty with Georgia, including the definition of the status of Abkhazia and South Ossetia), the minister observed that Russia, as well as the integrated and economically prosperous Georgia, need certainty on matters of protecting their external borders and also on prospects for the disposition of Russian troops on the republic's territory. Assuring those present that the treaty between Russia and Georgia will become a stabilizing factor in the life of the region, Andrey Kozyrev pointed to its direct link with a political settlement in Abkhazia and South Ossetia where Russia still does not abandon "the difficult but noble" mission of peacemaker. Kozyrev stressed that it is wrong to see in Russia's peacemaking efforts in the Caucasus "the Zhirinovskiy factor," something being speculated on both within the country and abroad.

Russia's position on Abkhazia's political future, the foreign policy department head said, is unchanging: While supporting the thesis of Georgia's territorial integrity, the Russian leadership is ready to assist the elaboration of such a status for Abkhazia that would take into account the interests of its multi-ethnic population. In this light the legitimacy of the referendum in Abkhazia on the future political structure is, according to the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry, directly related to the settlement of the refugee problem. Rejecting suggestions about the Russian leadership's sympathies toward Tbilisi, the minister made it clear that the sanctions used by Russia against the Abkhaz population had nonetheless been correctly understood and appreciated by the Sukhumi leaders. The latter are invited (for their own well-being) to "realistically sum up the situation, display flexibility, and work toward a compromise."

In the course of the president's visit Moscow also hopes for success in a South Ossetian settlement, where, it believes, the thesis about Georgia's territorial integrity must remain unchallenged. In addition to recommendations about inviting the South Ossetian leadership to participate in working out Georgia's new constitution, Tbilisi, as Kozyrev promises, will also be encouraged to deal with the issue of the Ossetian refugees, whose return to Georgia would be conducive to resolving the essentially Russian Ossetian-Ingush conflict. During the visit to Georgia, the minister assured, the question about the position of Russians in the republic—pensioners, war veterans, and former Soviet Army servicemen—is also bound to come up. And although the official position by the Georgian leadership with respect to the Russian-speaking minority does not arouse Moscow's concern, Moscow cannot but note that in the last two years 150,000 citizens have moved to Russia.

Concluding the meeting, Kozyrev stressed that the Foreign Affairs Ministry's Department on Liaison with the Federation Components, Parliament, and Public and

Political Organizations seeks to expand cooperation between the Russian regions and the neighboring countries, while the leaders of the North Caucasus republics, who are expected to display understanding of the statewide importance of the upcoming visit to Georgia, are free to join this process.

As NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent has learned, the reaction by the North Caucasus republics' leaders to Kozyrev's report has not been enthusiastic, to put it mildly. By general admission, one of the "guests" at the house on Smolenskaya Square confided, a treaty with Georgia is untimely. The unfavorable situation in Tbilisi, leaders of the Russian Federation components think, in contrast to the Russian foreign minister, is not yet cause for Russia's tutelage of Georgia. The opinion of the Federation Council, as articulated by Aslan Dzharimov and Akhsarbek Galazov, presidents of the Republic of Adygeya and North Ossetia; and Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the State Duma's Committee on CIS Affairs, will apparently create certain difficulties in ratifying the draft treaty prepared for the visit.

## Leaders Oppose Treaty

*PM0202180594 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 3 Feb 94 p 5*

[Report by Nadezhda Garifullina: "Caucasus United Prior to President's Visit to Georgia"]

[Text] B. Yeltsin's visit to Tbilisi and the forthcoming signing of the treaty between Georgia and Russia have become the subject of discussion at the meeting in the Foreign Ministry between A. Kozyrev and leaders of the North Caucasus republics. They expressed their critical attitude toward the draft treaty. Meeting with some of the participants in the meeting, our correspondent asked them to explain their position.

Akhsarbek Galazov, president of the Republic of North Ossetia:

"I believe that Russia should not sign any treaty with Georgia until there is a political settlement of the problem of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. If a treaty is signed clearly determining the fate of these two republics and they finally receive a political settlement of their problems—I am wholly in favor.

"I believe that South Ossetia should be recognized as a republic and that through the joint efforts of Georgia and Russia an economic basis should be placed under that decision, that the regions which were in fact seized should be returned to South Ossetia and all refugees should return.

"Second, and that is perhaps the main thing, we are also in favor of Georgia's integrity. But it will not be preserved as a single state unless the Georgian people's leaders realize that they must consider realities. After all, in fact Abkhazia and South Ossetia are now outside Georgia. To ensure that they are part of Georgia they must sit down with them at the conference table, sign a treaty, and satisfy their peoples' demands to the maximum.

"All questions existing today in the North Caucasus cannot be examined only within that region. The Caucasus is united and its division into the North Caucasus and the Transcaucasus seems to me utterly artificial. At the meeting at the Foreign Ministry there were statements in which Georgia was called the aggressor, with whom a treaty cannot be signed. And indeed, it did after all in fact perpetrate aggression. Seeking to drive non-Georgians out of South Ossetia, Georgia seized the territory of what was then still an autonomous oblast.

"As for Abkhazia it was artificially joined to Georgia back in Soviet times and Georgia also perpetrated aggression against Abkhazia using the national extremists' forces. And we believe that today Russia should not sign a wide-ranging treaty with Georgia. The problems of Abkhazia and South Ossetia are closely, directly linked with Russia. Nearly all the North Caucasus republics, krays, and oblasts took part in the defense of Abkhazia. And what happened in Abkhazia has found a response in Adygeya, Karachayevo-Cherkesiya, Krasnodar and Stavropol krays, and Kabardino-Balkariya....

"And surely South Ossetia's troubles cannot be viewed in isolation from North Ossetia? Any shot in the south echoes in North Ossetia. For the fourth year now not a single kilogram of food, not a single tablet or tube of medicine has reached South Ossetia from Georgia, nor have necessities been arriving. South Ossetia is supplied via North Ossetia and is in fact maintained by Russia. So surely Russia cannot sign a treaty until the problems of Abkhazia and South Ossetia are settled?"

Magomedali Magomedov, chairman of the Republic of Dagestan Supreme Soviet:

"Before discussing the draft treaty we were not familiarized with it in advance. I believe that as a whole the treaty is aimed at establishing normal mutual relations between Russia and Georgia. But we are worried by the position of South Ossetia and Abkhazia and we said that agreements with the Georgian leadership should be reached on these issues, that is these questions should not be bypassed when concluding a treaty".

Vladimir Khubiyev, chairman of the Karachayevo-Cherkess Republic Council of Ministers:

"I think that reason will nonetheless triumph and a political solution will be found for ensuring these republics' peaceful coexistence and the rights of each republic should be as they are determined by the peoples themselves—of Abkhazia, South Ossetia, and Georgia. Now is not the time when someone can be switched to someone else's subordination and when a big nation can dictate its will to a small people. I know the opinion of the Abkhazians—both the ordinary citizens and the leaders. They all, down to the last person, favor independence. In what form is another question."

## Elections for Yekaterinburg Duma Set for 10 Apr

*MK0202141094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 2 Feb 94 p 2*

[Irina Vladykina report under the "Regions" rubric: "Elections for Sverdlovsk Oblast Duma Set for 10 April. City Duma Will be Elected at the Same Time To Save Funds"]

[Text] Aleksey Strakhov, new head of the Sverdlovsk Oblast administration, has issued a decree regarding elections for the oblast Duma. It sets 10 April as the precise date of the event. Oblast residents are to elect 28 deputies. As little as two-fifths of this number of people's choices are going to draw up normative acts on a permanent basis, with the rest working in the Duma while continuing in their normal jobs.

The elections will be held in seven districts already familiar to the population from the recent electoral campaign. They will be held on the basis of the majority system, i.e. four deputies in each district shall be elected by a majority of votes.

The oblast and party organizations have actively joined in preparing for the elections. Vyacheslav Senko, coordinator of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia in the Urals and western Siberia, has stated that 16 deputies out of the 28 would without fail be elected on the Zhirinovskiy party ticket.

Yekaterinburg Mayor Arkadiy Chernetskiy has drawn attention to the fact that in order to save funds, the elections for the city Duma will be held simultaneously with the elections for the Sverdlovsk Oblast Duma. It should be pointed out that no regulations on the elections for the city Duma have been signed or published yet.

## Far East Mine Halts Coal To 'Persistent Debtors'

*PM0202160994 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 29 Jan 94*

[By G. Nikolayev, V. Myznikov, M. Faytelberg; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Nikolayev over video of open-cut coal mine] The Borodinskiy open-cut coal mine in Krasnoyarsk Kray is operating "in a state of anxious anticipation," so to speak. The term "strike" is no longer used here, as it has been banned by law. But nobody can outlaw the fact that as of 1 February the dispatch of fuel to persistent debtors will be suspended. The Krasnoyarsk Kray leadership, in a bid to recover billions in outstanding debts, has obtained certain allowances for its own region. However, the consumers—heat and electric power stations and boiler houses in Novosibirsk and Irkutsk Oblasts and in Altay and Khabarovsk Krays—are faced with the choice of either paying up or going without. As of February that means cutting electricity and heat supplies to industrial enterprises first of all, and then to the domestic sector. A state commission visiting the Borodinskiy open-cut coal mine was convinced of the justice of the coal workers' basic demands: Payment arrears will ultimately bring extraction to a halt, because equipment is not being repaired and it is deteriorating. Coal sector workers believe that only Moscow can unravel this complex financial knot. [Video shows work at the open-cut mine, machinery, production processes]

## All-Kuzbass Conference Opts To Call Strike

*PM0202160594 Moscow TRUD in Russian 2 Feb 94 Night Edition p 1*

[Report by Yuriy Kotlyarov: "Kuzbass on Verge of Strike"]

[Text] An all-Kuzbass conference of labor collective representatives has been held in Kemerovo. It was attended by delegates from enterprises in various industrial sectors, the budget-funded sphere, and rural residents; leaders of a number of firms, joint-stock companies, and sectoral trade unions; as well as V. Goncharov, deputy chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia. Despite being officially invited, the oblast administration, which, incidentally, unilaterally terminated its involvement in the tripartite oblast commission for the resolution of labor conflicts shortly beforehand, ignored this representative assembly.

But the question under discussion at the conference is highly topical: "The socioeconomic situation in the Kuzbass and tactics in the prevailing conditions." The situation in the region is extraordinary and is steadily deteriorating. One by one enterprises are coming to a standstill. The total credit indebtedness has topped 2 trillion rubles [R]. And production is continuing to decline. Thus production dropped 21 percent last year in sectors working for the consumer market. Workers' wages depreciated 20 percent a month. Miners alone have currently failed to receive R29 billion in wages and the figure is around R24 billion for budget-funded personnel....

The further stratification of society is proceeding at an accelerated pace. Some 18-24 months ago the income of the poor was one-third or one-fourth that of the rich, now it is lower by a factor of 26! And what about underlying unemployment? There are now 78,000 people on enforced extended leave or working a reduced working day.

The conference participants adopted a set of demands to put to the government and the president. The main ones being that a program for socioeconomic transformations and a solution to the economic crisis be published within one month and that a mechanism be established to provide compensation for the damage done to the health of the oblast's population by environmental pollution.

In view of the prevailing situation and the opinion of labor collectives, it was decided to declare a general strike in the oblast and elect a coordinating council of labor collective representatives.

### Deputy Tuleyev Asks Yeltsin for Aid for Kuzbass

*PM0302102594 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 3 Feb 94 p 1*

[Appeal to Boris Yeltsin from Federation Council Deputy A. Tuleyev under general heading: "Russia Pregnant With Strike"]

[Text] Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich,

As a Federation Council deputy I am obliged to send you a written request and obliged to tell you the following.

In the Kuzbass, where you were nominated for president and where miners have been your constant support, an extreme economic and political emergency has taken shape.

You know that it is connected with the stoppage of enterprises, reciprocal nonpayments, the nonfulfillment of your edicts and instructions, and unemployment. People have been unable to get their wages for five months. There is a wild, uncontrolled increase in prices. And most important, people are not protected from the rampage of crime, they live in fear of their lives in the full sense of the word.

My frequent appeals to the government and to you personally are left without proper attention. Unless urgent and effective steps are taken right now, the most terrible thing—a general strike—could occur in the Kuzbass. In terms of its strength it would be the 1989 strike, in which you took part, but squared. If it is allowed it will deal a terrible blow to the Russian economy because the lack of coal will bring everything to a standstill.

My conscience is clear. I have done everything I could to warn of this social eruption when I was chairman of the oblast soviet before you dissolved the representative organs. As God is my witness people's demands are entirely just; the miners did not go on strike in 1989 in order to live in poverty and fear, experiencing every day the violation of human rights. I support the Kuzbass people's demands and, of course, I shall be with them.

I appeal to you once again as president to take urgent and effective steps, including those I have suggested and which are at present in the hands of your apparatus.

[Signed] Federation Council Deputy A. Tuleyev

### Official Denies Kurils To Be No-Entry Zone

*LD0202131894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1215 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Belovitskiy]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk February 2 TASS—Reports that the Sakhalin governor intends to make the south Kuril Islands a no-entry zone, which were run by a number of the Japanese media last week, were disproved by Vitaliy Dubov, acting head of a department of the Sakhalin administration. He said these reports meant sensation-seeking and attempts to pass "white for black".

Chiefs of the administration now draft a resolution connected with the Russian law on the state border. Jurists consider the proposal to allocate in a number of districts of the Sakhalin region five kilometre frontier belts with special regulations for the stay of Russian and foreign citizens, but not the prohibition of their stay.

It is yet early to dwell on specific features of the document. One thing is certain: it will be fully in keeping with the law on the Russian border.

The Sakhalin governor himself favours the freedom of travel of citizens in the territory of their country in accordance with accepted norms.

### Further Details on Omsk Mayor's Dismissal

*PM0302095794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Feb 94 First Edition p 4*

[Report by Sergey Suslikov: "Dismissal of Omsk's Mayor Result of Long Political Intrigue. Boris Yeltsin Dismisses Omsk Mayor Yuriy Shoykhet and Cancels 20 March Mayoral Elections"]

[Text] On the eve of the dismissal, Omsk Oblast Governor L. Polezhayev announced at a routine press conference his decision to hold the Omsk mayoral elections 20 March. A week has passed and the decree on the elections, already signed by the governor, has not been published in the press. We have learned that the likely mayoral candidates—Yu. Shoykhet and V. Obraztsov—were persistently urged not to run, so as not to impede the candidate whom the governnor wanted to see as mayor of Omsk. Shoykhet and Obraztsov refused to accept these terms, and this sealed the fate of both the mayor of Omsk and the mayoral elections. Leonid Polezhayev flew to Moscow, met with President Yeltsin and, according to the governor himself, decided on the dismissal in the course of a conversation with the head of state.

"A friend telephoned me round midnight and told me a piece of news that sounded like a practical joke," Yu. Shoykhet said. "'Mayak' was reporting that Yeltsin had dismissed me for 'destabilizing the situation' and 'exceeding my powers.'"

The meticulous journalists at the press conference put some very specific questions to Governor L. Polezhayev. Just what constitutes a "destabilization of the situation," if there has not ben a single strike in Omsk and the city has heat and the cheapest food in Siberia? What exactly constitutes "exceeding one's powers" if, according to the mayor of Omsk, there has not been a single prosecutor's appeal against city administration decisions? And, finally, why did he seek redress against a mayor who had exceeded his powers not in the people's court but in the president's office?

Polezhayev tried to get away with general phrases; he was nervous, and finally stated that the main reason for Shoykhet's dismissal was that the mayor of Omsk, who had run for the Federal Assembly representing "Russia's Choice," had failed in the election and had lost the voters' confidence. The answer can hardly be said to have been successful....

Now it turns out that it was not the governor who deprived Omsk people of their right to elect their mayor.... Polezhayev was merely implementing the edict from President B. Yeltsin, who deemed the election inexpedient. It was the president who took the extreme action [kraynim okazalsya prezident].

Here is one more theory. Governor Polezhayev, skillfully exploiting the political situation, has settled a personal score with the mayor. These men have long been rivals. Shoykhet was the first cooperative member in Omsk to set up a joint-stock company with private capital. Then L. Polezhayev, as chairman of the oblast soviet executive committee, set up the "Omskiy Torgovyy Dom" [Omsk Trading House] Joint-Stock Company founded by major monopoly state enterprises producing scarce goods such as television sets, washing machines, tires.... Without quitting as head of the oblast executive, Polezhayev became president of the trading house. Small businesses were shocked. In order to ship a tonne of condensed milk out of the oblast, it was necessary to go all over to get permission from Polezhayev's deputy. The trading house, naturally, had no problems. There was a scandal. There followed a presidential edict, under which Polezhayev was to have stood down as president of the commercial structure. A deputies' commission which exposed cases of the most basic kind of speculation in state goods was silenced.

Last year the oblast inner soviet, on the initiative of Governor L. Polezhayev, decided to end payments to the federal budget. The next morning Mayor Shoykhet issued a radio statement to Omsk people to the effect that Polezhayev and the soviet were destroying Russia economically. On the basis of an appeal by the oblast prosecutor, who had ruled the soviet decision illegal, Shoykhet announced that the city would be meticulous about paying its taxes.

A September-October session of the oblast administration collegium decided to support the president. Shoykhet asked bluntly whether that meant Rutskoy, who had taken the oath, or Yeltsin. They took a vote—Yeltsin won by a margin of two. But in the Omsk newspapers the next day Yeltsin's name had been dropped from the oblast administration decision. And that is Polezhayev all over as a politician.

The story of the mayor of Omsk's dismissal brings to mind some sad thoughts. The legal mechanisms for instituting proceedings or removing someone from his job are not working, but intrigues and telephone law are increasingly gaining ground.

## International Affairs

### Joint Statement on Negotiations With U.S.

*LD0202232094 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2200 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry circulated the text of the joint statement which was signed in Washington to consummate the 24-30 January negotiations between a Ukrainian government delegation led by Economics Minister Roman Shpek and the U.S. Administration's high-ranking officials.

The statement says that the negotiation focused on bilateral trade and economic relations, with the two sides having reached an agreement on a number of government initiatives to promote trade and extend to Ukraine the generalized system of preferences and on the U.S. support for Ukraine's (?accedence to) GATT. The statement says that the U.S. side greeted Ukraine's adherence to and observance of sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro, and took into account Ukraine's losses suffered as a result of it.

The United States attaches paramount importance to the success of democratic and market reforms in Ukraine, the statement says, and considering Ukraine's key stabilizing role in the region, regards its national, economic, and political security as extremely important for United States and European security. The United States also pledges to increase its technical and financial aid to Ukraine, particularly to finance private investments as well as urgent humanitarian aid to alleviate adverse social effects of the transnational [as heard] period. The United States also pledges to increase financing of safe and secure dismantling of Ukraine's nuclear weapons. The two sides agreed to convene in Kiev in March the first session of a mixed U.S.-Ukrainian committee for Ukraine's defense industry conversion.

The Ukrainian delegation also carried out some preparations for President Kravchuk's visit to the United States, slated for March 1994, which will allow to consider a bilateral charter of U.S.- Ukrainian partnership, friendship and cooperation, and sign a package of bilateral agreements.

### Article Views NATO Partnership for Peace

*WS0202150094 Kiev KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 25 Jan 94 p 3*

[Article by Yuliya Mostovaya: "Partnership for Peace—Insurance Policy Without Guarantees. Does Ukraine Need It?"]

[Text] **We drew similar castles in our childhood—graceful and inaccessible, hoisting tower spires tipped with cast iron flags and weathervanes into the sky over Brussels. There are not many trees in the city, but those we saw were decoratively trimmed. Their leafless limbs would have finally convinced us of the fabulousness of the city if their gothic crowns had not been ornamented with neon lights by Cartier, Gucci, or Citroen... During our four-day visit in Brussels, we did not have the opportunity to see Brussels in daylight. A Ukrainian delegation headed by Supreme Council Deputy Chairman Vasyl Durdynets would leave its hotel early in the morning, and when it was returning after a strenuous day filled with negotiations, briefings, and consultations, it would already be dark. Although it was an unofficial visit, the delegation included presidential advisers, an aide to the defense minister, and top officials from the Foreign Ministry. The visit had been organized and prepared by the Ukrainian Center for Studying Issues of International Security. The main goal of the visit was to obtain as much information as possible about the "Partnership for Peace"—the latest NATO initiative—which, in the opinion of NATO politicians, generals of the NATO Allied Forces Command in Europe, representatives of the North Atlantic Assembly, and all the people with whom the Ukrainian delegation met, "should build not barriers but bridges."**

"Let us get involved in combat, and later we will see," used to say an outstanding commander. Ukraine did this by announcing its support for the "Partnership for Peace" immediately after a NATO summit, at which leaders of 16 members of the bloc had decided what to do with Eastern and Central European countries knocking on NATO's doors. As is known, it had been decided at the summit not to open the doors but to let them look from behind the fence. Certain countries have received the NATO (or rather U.S.) initiative as a nice surprise, other states such as Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary have seen it as a big disappointment. Why? First of all, because they wanted to receive security guaranties from NATO, to outdistance unstable, bordering Russia, to ensure themselves against possible adventures from internal opposition, and to quiet the issue of redrawing borders, which has recently been voiced more and more often. However, the status of countries that are to join the "Partnership for Peace" is much more different than the one of the 16 permanent NATO members. Whereas the main goal of NATO has always been to protect its members from outside aggression, the "Partnership for Peace" does not mention any protection. This is the first point. Additionally, while soberly assessing reality, it becomes obvious that countries of the former Warsaw Pact are not in conflict with the West but with one another. Presuming that membership in NATO would prevent these conflicts from becoming more radical, they wanted to merge with NATO. However, many NATO officials with whom we met in Brussels emphasized that the Allied Forces defend the bloc members from external attack, not interfering in internal conflicts among themselves. Usually, they would cite the example of Turkey and Greece in this regard. This way, even if small countries of the former Warsaw Pact became NATO members, this would not have any influence on, for example, relations between Romania and Hungary. It is not even worth recalling that the "Partnership for Peace" does not provide such guarantees.

One should not hope that this initiative can prevent possible aggression from Russia (in case the ideas of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia prevail). Moreover, the "Partnership for Peace" is a compromise between two superpowers; one of them dominates in the West, the other—in the East. Undoubtedly, the United States, which plays first fiddle in NATO, was not against extending its sphere of influence to countries of Eastern and Central Europe. However, officials in Washington and Brussels take into account, first of all, the unstable situation in those countries, which may crack the monolith of the bloc, and second, the danger of isolating Russia. After all, I, personally, do not have any doubts that NATO does not want to infuriate Russia. Unfortunately, countries of the former USSR, except for the Baltics and Ukraine, unconditionally approve Russia's sphere of influence. Brussels is far more interested in the above-mentioned republics and countries which border with NATO countries. When the talks touched upon using NATO's peacekeeping forces under the aegis of UN or CSCE, a NATO official stated that the Western troops will never crisscross borders of the former USSR. In general, in his opinion, peacekeeping operations in this region should be conducted by a state which has direct interests there, and NATO apparently does not have any interests in our region, and the more so in the Asian part of the CIS. "We did not even know how to spell Tajikistan," admitted another NATO official. Yet, for the sake of justice, it must be admitted that there are also differing opinions in Brussels. For instance, one of the officials of the International Secretariat said that, in case a conflict erupts in the Crimea, NATO will not stand by indifferently. Nevertheless, the "Partnership for Peace" does not downgrade Russia's interests on "its territory." Hence, the following question arises: What are the real provisions of this idea?

The Ukrainian delegation could not obtain an exhaustive answer, since NATO officials also do not have an idea with what the framework of "Partnership for Peace" will be filled. The idea was formulated not long ago, and it became officially presented on the occasion of the visit by comrade Clinton to Europe. It is expected that countries that will participate in the initiative will conduct military training and form peacekeeping forces in cooperation with NATO. The process of joint activities should lead to rapprochement of military authorities, strategic plans, and technical equipment. Only after this preparatory period, which, in the opinion of NATO generals, will take eight or 10 years, admission of new NATO members may be addressed. During the next several months, a structure for encouraging friendly relations among countries that have applied for membership in the "Partnership for Peace" and NATO will be established. Officers-representatives of "Partnership for Peace" members and 16 NATO countries will work out this structure. As of today, this all the information that is available, and it is followed by an array of unanswered questions. Among them are, for example, the following ones: What effect will the participation of CIS countries in the "Partnership for Peace" have on the CIS collective security system? In which countries and how often will training be conducted? (This is not an inappropriate question, since, for example, Poland would not like to host German troops on its territory during joint military training. There is also suspicion that many countries, particularly former socialist states, will not be delighted by the presence of Russian units on their territories.) What expenditures are needed to reach comparable standards of technical equipment? What will the procedures be for admitting new countries to NATO, following the "preparatory period?": Will they be admitted all at once or separately? (According to Western politicians, the "Partnership for Peace" was not been meant as an affront to anyone.)

A great many things depend on the answer to the last question. After all, as of today, NATO is not in the best years of its existence. Not the Warsaw Pact but the common taxpayer has become its worst enemy by refusing to finance defense expenditures since the collapse of the totalitarian system. By the year 1995, the number of NATO Allied Forces will have been reduced by 25 percent, and certain units—even by 45 percent.

The lack of a common enemy may boil down NATO to a UN military unit designed to protect or reestablish peace in troubled points. It has not been ruled out that, having expanded itself to the entire northern hemisphere, NATO will catch a second breath while facing a potential South-North conflict. Still, NATO is the only guarantee for stability in Western Europe, and this alone is sufficient justification for its existence in today's unstable times.

Nonetheless, the concept of global security is as follows: The times of blocs have gone. For many, it is hard to realize that. Not taking into account the fact that the "Partnership for Peace" was meant to calm Russia's fury but considering it as a bridge unifying the entire northern hemisphere from Vancouver to Vladivostok, it becomes clear that Ukraine should participate in it. After all, the system of global security is to last dozens of years, and we should participate in digging its foundation. It is particularly important to realize this today, when the "Partnership for Peace" is merely an insurance policy without any guarantees for Ukraine, and we do not have money to pay for it. Ukraine itself will have to finance military training and the modernization of equipment, since NATO is not interested in our outdated defense industry complex or TU-160 airplanes. Therefore, the decision concerning Ukraine's participation in the "Partnership for Peace" is a political decision aimed at a long perspective rather than the present moment. Today, it is necessary to concentrate our attention on the economy, conduct reforms, and make all possible efforts to include the entire potential of the state in this process. This is the only way we can receive security guarantees. Only having revived our economy, we will be reckoned with. Only this way, we will be able to withhold our decisions and integrate into a civilized Europe.

For the time being however... For the time being however, at the NATO headquarters in Brussels, at the conference room where the Ukrainian delegation met with top officials of the NATO International Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretariat, two maps of the world hang on the wall: One depicts 15 states, the other displays four black letters painted against a pink background—USSR. The sooner we will convince the whole world and NATO members that the second map is obsolete the better...

### Accord Reached With Russia on Joint Control of Space Center

*WS0302121094 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 1 Feb 94 p 3*

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Ukraine and Russia have reached an agreement to jointly operate the Cosmic Center of Flight Control based in Yevpatoria, in the Crimea. Its plan of activities includes the Center's participation in international projects and controlling the flights of stations "Blyskavka," "Horyzont," "Meteor," and "Prohnoz" used for industrial and economic purposes in the interests of Ukraine and Russia.

### Envoy Confers With Polish Foreign Minister

*LD0202152794 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 1 Feb 94*

[Text] Polish Foreign Minister Andrzej Olechowski has received Gennadiy Udovenko, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Ukraine. Prospects for the development of bilateral Ukrainian-Polish relations were discussed during the conversation. The Polish minister stressed the necessity of strengthening good-neighborly relations with our state in all areas of cooperation, and noted that fast changes in its economic life and Poland's active help in this will facilitate the strengthening of Ukraine's statehood and independence.

In his turn Gennadiy Udovenko stressed the importance of continuing Poland's course toward closer cooperation with Ukraine, and informed his interlocutor in detail about the contents of the tripartite Ukrainian-American-Russian statement regarding nuclear disarmament.

### Saudi Paper: Ukraine Offers Warships to Gulf States

*PM0302094594 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 3 Feb 94 p 1*

[ITAR-TASS report from "Facts and Assessments" column]

[Text] Ukraine has suggested to the Persian Gulf countries that they buy "a substantial part of its share of the former Soviet navy," the Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported Tuesday. Missile and torpedo boats, destroyers, and minelayers are scheduled for sale, the newspaper writes, citing "sources in Washington." Ukraine has suggested that Iran also buy a submarine from it.

## National Affairs

### Parliament Summons Deputies, Postpones Law Changes

*LD0202134194 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1208 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Kiev, 2 Feb—At the morning sitting of the Supreme Council session, having postponed examination of the issue of a Ukraine-wide referendum on the fundamental constitutional provisions on the organization of state authority and local self-government in Ukraine, the deputies began to examine a draft law on making amendments and additions to the law of Ukraine on elections of people's deputies of Ukraine, which people's deputy Oleksiy Shakhovtsov spoke about on behalf of the commission for issues of legislation.

Deputies supported the proposal of people's deputy Serhiy Holovatyy, who proposed "to ensure a quorum of live deputies, and not button ones [ones who have substitutes to press the button in votes], and to send out telegrams to them so that there are not less than 300 deputies in the session hall tomorrow, 3 February." In his speech, Serhiy Holovatyy said that if the amendments to the law on elections are not approved, the elections to the Supreme Council of Ukraine on 27 March would not take place. But elections for the president are set for 26 June. "To whom will power belong over this period?"—Serhiy Holovatyy asked. Ivan Plyushch, chairman of the Supreme Council, who was chairing the session, agreed with this proposal, instructing Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council, to assemble a quorum.

### Plyushch Against Referendum

*LD0202170294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1452 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] The speaker of the Ukrainian parliament, Ivan Plyushch, has expressed disfavor for a referendum on the basic constitutional provisions in Ukraine. The proposal on holding the referendum March 27 was earlier advanced by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk.

Speaking in parliament on Wednesday morning, Plyushch said that the constitutional law on power should be adopted by parliament.

According to the draft law that is to be debated in parliament Thursday, the local executive power should be in the hands of the heads of locals councils who are to be elected.

The institute of the president's representatives, Plyushch proposed, is to be annulled after the constitutional law comes into force.

### Approves Amendments to Tax Law

*LD0202192794 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Kiev, 2 Feb—The deputies considered and approved amendments and additions to the law of Ukraine on the taxation system. An explanatory note indicates that according to the law the taxation system is built on the principles of social justice. The law determines the conditions of taxation, the taxpayers, and the procedure of registering the objects of taxation. Two types of taxes are envisaged: state—which are determined by the Supreme Council of Ukraine and are valid on the entire territory of Ukraine—and local taxes and fees—for example, advertisement fees, health resort fees, etc. The explanatory note indicates that the adoption of the law on the taxation system will promote the building of a taxation system that would comply with the demands of a transitional period.

The deputies approved changes to the procedural code of Ukraine in connection with the adoption of the law of Ukraine on the election of people's deputies. The code is supplemented with the "Statement on the abrogation of the decision of the district electoral commission on the registration of a candidate for people's deputy" and the "Complaints about the decisions and actions by the Central Elections Commission."

The deputies began considering a draft concept of developing the fuel and energy complex of Ukraine up to the year 2010.

Deputy Minister of Economy Volodymyr Hureyev made a report. Minister of Power Engineering and Electrification Vilen Semenyuk and Mykhaylo Kovalko, the chairman of DerzhKomNaftoHas [state oil and gas committee], delivered the second and third reports. The deputies approved a resolution consisting of two points: agreement in general with the draft concept of developing the fuel and energy complex of Ukraine up to the year 2010 and charging the cabinet of ministers with elaborating and approving a national program for the "Implementation of Ukraine's energy policy" proceeding from the above concept. An explanatory note, signed by acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zuyahilskyy, indicates that in the future it would be expedient to satisfy the national economy needs for electric power through the use of coal—50 percent, uranium—40 percent, and the rest—through the use of other energy sources. It is envisaged to satisfy the need for coal up to the year 2010 completely at the expense of our own resources. For this purpose it is necessary to begin digging 25 new mines. The possibility of building new thermal power stations is not ruled out, in particular, the building of a station in Chernigov Oblast that would solve the social issues of the collective of the Chernobyl nuclear power station, which will carry out intensive preparations for a stoppage. Ukraine's needs for oil and gas will be satisfied mainly at the expense of their import.

Fifteen trillion [as received] karbovantsi are required for the development of the coal industry by the year 2005 at the prices of the first quarter of last year. The extraction of coal in 2005 will amount to 160 million tons. Nine trillion karbovantsi are required for the development of the gas and oil industry. This will allow the output of oil in 2010 to increase to 7.5 million tons and gas to 30 billion cubic meters. Expenditures for carrying out measures to develop electric power engineering will amount to approximately 25 trillion karbovantsi.

### To Discuss START I 3 Feb

*LD0202230294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2100 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] At its evening plenary session on 2 February, the Supreme Council of Ukraine approved the draft Law "On Energy Supply" after the first reading. During the debate on this draft law, people's deputies expressed two opposite stands: Anatoliy Yahoferov and Ivan Makar believe the provisions of the law are geared to restoring the administrative methods of managing economy while Borys Mokin and others were convinced that they stimulate energy by saving production methods. The laws concerning legal proceedings will come into force on the day of their promulgation, in particular the law "On the Bodies of the Judges' Self-Government" (formerly called "On Conferences and Congresses of Judges"); "On Qualification Commissions, Qualification Certification, and Disciplinary Responsibility of Ukraine's Judges"; and "On Introducing Amendments to the Law 'On the Status of Judges.'" Changes have been introduced to the Supreme Council resolution "On Putting the Law of Ukraine 'On Road Traffic' in force." The people's deputies expressed most of their interest during the debate on two draft laws: "On Introducing Amendments and Additions to the Cabinet of Ministers' Decree 'On the Regime of Foreign Investments'" and to the Land Code of Ukraine (concerning the privatization of plots of land under incomplete construction projects). People's Deputy Volodymyr Petrenko pointed out: "We must examine this issue as a concept. Does the Supreme Council give the opportunity to foreign natural persons and legal entities and also to persons without citizenship to buy plots of land under the current inflation and distorted exchange rate of the coupon [karbovanets] in relation to the dollar?" The majority of the speakers agreed with his opinion that it is impossible to grant foreign citizens or persons without citizenship the right to buy land and remarked that their right to lease plots of land could be envisaged in the completed variant of the documents. The deputies voted for introducing amendments to the Cabinet of Ministers' decree "On the Regime of Foreign Investments."

Chairman of the Supreme Council Ivan Plyushch said that on 3 February two important issues would be

considered: the draft law on local self-government; and conformity with the trilateral statement by the presidents of Ukraine, the United States, and Russia to the Supreme Council resolution on START I ratification.

### Lawmakers Demand Criminal Case Against Zvyahilskyy

*LD0302094794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0927 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Nekrasova]

[Text] Lvov February 3 TASS—The Ukrainian Procurator-General's Office accepted for examination a message by legislator Khmara and some of his colleagues where they demand that a criminal case be instituted against acting Premier Yukhym Zvyahilskyy who permitted 17 leading engineering factories to ship their products to countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) without preliminary payment.

In legislators' opinion, this is "an illegal order inflicting material damage on Ukraine".

The difficult economic situation in the CIS countries has brought about a situation when some enterprises and organisations went bankrupt and did not pay for delivered goods or paid with great delays.

Former Ukrainian Premier Leonid Kuchma forbid to ship goods to former Soviet republics without preliminary payment or without guarantees by a foreign bank which could vouch for payments in time.

But, six months later, Zvyahilskyy signed a decision permitting the Kiev Elektronmash, Kharkov bicycle factories and other leading engineering enterprises to deliver goods to the CIS countries without the confirmation of preliminary payments.

### Crimea's Meshkov: Situation 'Unpredictable'

*BR0102143694 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 1 Feb 94 p 15*

[Interview with Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov by Fiammetta Cucurnia; place and date not given: "'Citizens of Crimea, Referendum Now'—Independence According to Meshkov"]

[Excerpt] Simferopol—[introductory passage omitted] Some oppositionists here say that Yuriy Meshkov—this 45-year-old lawyer who boasts of his expertise in martial arts, a judo blackbelt—is merely a transitional figure, as unavoidable as a bitter medicine. The promise to bring Crimea back into the ruble area under the Russian umbrella, abandoning the ruined Ukrainian economy to itself, will be short-lived, they say, in view of Moscow's indifference and [Ukrainian President] Kravchuk's hostility. So he will soon be a president with no powers, like the queen of England.

But Yuriy Meshkov does not seem at all like a queen. And Crimea is not reminiscent of England. It is much more like Karabakh, Georgia, and the Moldovan lands of the Dniester, where offended and desolate men have been attacking each other, first in the elections and the referendum, then with ultimatums, and last with hatred and weapons, in order to defend their own "sacrosanct" rights.

[Cucurnia] Mr. President, you said today that soon the citizens of Crimea will be summoned to a referendum on independence. You went on to explain that you do not intend to take the republic out of Ukraine and that there will be no territorial problems. In our country we say that you cannot eat soup and blow on it at the same time. How do you intend to reconcile these two positions?

[Meshkov] The status of an independent republic is not an end in itself. We have only one wish: to salvage ourselves. That is, to set our economy back on a sound footing. If in order to do so it is not necessary to modify Crimea's status, then we will not do so. But if anyone tries to obstruct us, then we will be forced somehow to guarantee our autonomy in the economic field.

[Cucurnia] Do you mean that you reserve the right to leave Ukraine?

[Meshkov] I personally do not see the need for it, but the political situation is very complex and unpredictable, precisely because of the disastrous economic situation. In our country there is no longer any stability, there is so much crime, so much disintegration and poverty that social explosions and revolts cannot be ruled out, and we must defend our citizens.

[Cucurnia] At your news conference you said that you want to turn Crimea into a bridge between Russia and Ukraine. But apart from the deafening silence on Russia's part and Kravchuk's attempts at reconciliation, the whole of western Ukraine rejects the very idea of your independence. Do you not think that somebody will try to blow up your bridge?

[Meshkov] The experience of the former Soviet republics has set in motion some obscure and ambivalent mechanisms, a mixture of centrifugal thrusts and hopes of reintegration. Unfortunately the former prevailed in the initial phase and paved the way for a tide of nationalism in the lands of the former USSR. Leadership groups came to power that have neglected economic problems, since they were busy with gaining and retaining power. Those who were most keen to break the bridges and to isolate themselves, such as Ukraine, have suffered the most. Crimea's territorial problem is certainly not the most serious problem that Ukraine has to face, keeping in mind the fact that even outside Crimea feelings have changed and many people long for what they have lost.

[Cucurnia] Mr. President, according to the official figures, over a million people voted for you yesterday. How many of them do you think voted for a reunion with Russia?

[Meshkov] The nostalgia that we all feel for that stable and secure past that we knew is perfectly understandable; the memory has not disappeared from our awareness. Just as communist ideology has not disappeared. It is wrong for the international economic structures to lay down the law, without taking account of the situation and minds of the people who make this economy function. And people now are being forced to choose: Behind us we have left a secure world that turned into decline and poverty when we were promised a market economy. Whether to move forward toward these horrors, or to rebuild a decent life? Those who voted for me do not want a return to communism, but they do want to reform the economy and to restore everyone's fundamental rights. We give priority to the rights of the citizens, not those of the state. The state must concern itself with the people, and not vice versa. But if the international community abandons us, unless it tries to influence the decisions adopted by Kiev, which has shown itself to be incapable of economic management, unless Ukraine's brutal actions are discouraged, the situation in Crimea could really become red hot.

[Cucurnia] But are you aware that Crimea is surrounded by the interests of two nuclear powers, Ukraine and Russia, not to mention Turkey, which has promised support to the Tatar minority, who hail from these lands?

[Meshkov] I feel the full burden of the responsibility that I have shouldered. These are hard and embittered times. I am perfectly well aware of the gravity of the situation, especially since I learned that the director of the CIA devoted his report to the issue of the elections in Crimea. But nobody will understand our problems and the fact that Crimea's internal structure rules out the explosion of conflicts. The only thing that could provoke these people is economic collapse, in which case social processes will become impossible to control. But we have no internal ethnic or religious conflicts or any nationalist movements seeking justice against history. Russia and Ukraine have always been good neighbors. The only serious problem is the Black Sea Fleet, and Ukraine should have the courage to admit that it is Russian and indivisible.

[Cucurnia] What about the Tatars, who opposed your elections with all their strength?

[Meshkov] I am disappointed about the statements by their leader Mustafa Dzhemilev [name as received], who has said that he cannot rule out armed resistance by the Tatars for a solution of their national problems. This really is too much. Fortunately, the Tatar intelligentsia and a large proportion of the people do not agree with these statements. Be that as it may, it cannot influence the Crimean citizens' legitimate desire to build a viable future.

## Terms Economic Independence Priority

*LD0202154694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1137 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Crimea's first president, Yuriy Meshkov, told Interfax in an exclusive interview that his republic's economic independence was the first-priority aspect of his policy.

He said that the results of the presidential elections had "confirmed the orientation to economic and cultural cooperation with Russia."

The referendum on independence to be held next March is expected to put Crimea's economic independence on a juridical footing, he continued.

"Crimea must be an independent and full-fledged member of the CIS economic system," said Meshkov.

Asked about Kiev's possible negative reaction to the results of the presidential elections, he said that the more than one million votes cast in his support were the guarantor which no decree or political statement can shake.

Speaking about the problem of the Black Sea Fleet, he said: "The fleet must be indivisible and Russian, and must be based in Sevastopol—an inalienable part of Crimea."

He said that the other serious problem facing Crimea was the problem of the Crimean Tatars. He said he favored the idea of compensating the Crimean Tatars for the state damage inflicted on them. He believes that Russia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan, the countries where part of the deported Crimean Tatars now live, must finance their return to their historical homeland.

Asked if he would use the white Lincoln given to him by the Crimean billionaire Sergey Shuriga, he said: "I don't think I'll use it very often. But it won't hurt to have a Lincoln for welcoming Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk or Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin."

## Official Assesses Situation in Crimea

*WS0302110694 Kiev KYYIVSKA PRAVDA in Ukrainian 1 Feb 94 p 1*

[Interview with Anatoliy Tkachuk, deputy chairman of the Committee for Legislative and Legal Issues, by Yu. Nepomnyashcha; place and date not given: "Bagrov Won With Kravchuk But Lost the Crimean Presidency"—first two paragraphs are KYYIVSKA PRAVDA introduction]

[Text] The Crimea has its own president. Although he has been supported by the majority of the peninsula's population, he has placed many uneasy questions before Ukraine's leadership and alarmed the world.

The following interview was given on the eve of the Crimean elections.

[Nepomnyashcha] **The situation in the Crimea has been precisely described beyond Ukraine's borders. The Crimea is compared with Afghanistan as a potential threat to peace and stability. Has everything been done in Ukraine to prevent this threat?**

[Tkachuk] Since the spring of 1992, our committee has been delivering to the president and the Supreme Council documents saying that events in the Crimea have been developing in a different direction than was expected when Crimean autonomy was proclaimed. We have come forward with proposals to cancel certain presidential decrees, including the one on establishing a free economic zone, and pointed out that the Crimean Constitution contradicts the Ukrainian one, as well as signaled that Ukraine's property have been illegally confiscated. The president has kept saying: We know about all these issues and are in control of the situation.

[Nepomnyashcha] **Apparently, he has been afraid that a tough position of the center would call forth a similar reaction in the Crimea.**

[Tkachuk] First of all, this is a characteristic feature of Ukraine's mentality: It will be somehow... Second, every politician has believed that he is the wisest. What has happened with Bagrov is an appalling example. He won with Kravchuk, having de facto established his own state—an independent Crimea—and now, he also is outside the board.

[Nepomnyashcha] **In Kiev, officials have bet on Bagrov, expecting that he will win the elections and remember that the center has showed support for him.**

[Tkachuk] Yes, they have bet on him, which demonstrates the weakness of our political prognoses. There is a certain common law—the expansion of power. If somebody assumes a certain amount of power, this power tends to expand. Having granted autonomy to the Crimea, we allowed the Oblast Council to be transformed into a Supreme Council. However, this should have happened by means of elections, since oblast councils have completely different personnel and intellectual potentials than a supreme one. It was naive to believe that the Oblast Council would improve its way of thinking. This is our analysis. The quicker the powers of Crimean authorities grew, the more subsidies they demanded from the center. Today, although per capita income in the Crimea ranks in the top 20 among other oblasts, the region is in the top 10 in terms of consumption.

When Crimean deputies adopted a law on education, which practically eliminated the Ukrainian language, we swallowed this. We also swallowed an electoral law which eliminated Ukrainian parties from the Crimean electoral process. They have established their own banks and customs services to separate even further from Ukraine. In Kiev meanwhile, we have observed this and kept silent, hoping that Bagrov would not forget and repay our services. Today, Bagrov has ceased to exist as a political figure.

[Nepomnyashcha] **How do you assess the position of Yuriy Meshkov? Where will he lead the Crimea, having become president?**

[Tkachuk] I have heard several of his speeches delivered in the Crimean Supreme Council. I will quote him by heart: The yellow-and-blue Ukrainian flag wants to once again tie a noose around the necks of the long-suffering people of the Crimea... This is his style.

[Nepomnyashcha] **While signing the tripartite statement on Ukraine's nuclear disarmament, the Ukrainian side put emphasis on a paragraph concerning the inviolability of borders, assuming that the statement will contribute to positive resolution of the Crimean issue.**

[Tkachuk] What does a statement mean? If they had signed an agreement or treaty, which would have legal consequences—meaning that it does not matter if Yeltsin or someone else is in power in Moscow, and that a country is obliged to fulfill the agreement... What, I repeat, is the legal status of a statement?

[Nepomnyashcha] **What is your prognosis for the development of events on the peninsula?**

[Tkachuk] Unfortunately, one can smell gunpowder in the air there. The situation will much depend on the Crimean Tatars' position. The Russian population of the peninsula is not very happy about returning there [to Russia]. Yuriy Meshkov emphasized this issue during his campaign. Many Ukrainians who have settled in the Crimea have lost their national roots, and the mentality of our people is rather peaceful. Tatars, on the other hand, have repeatedly stated in the Mejlis [National Assembly] their intention to fight for national liberation. Should this occur, we may see very unpleasant events in the Crimea.

[Nepomnyashcha] **Are there any possibilities to relieve the tensions?**

[Tkachuk] There are many possibilities. All that is needed is the political will, since one should take harsh steps, in particular, introduce presidential rule.

[Nepomnyashcha] **...which will trigger even greater opposition on part of the new president and political forces that back him.**

[Tkachuk] Do you think that if we do nothing there will be peace? We used to think that way. We argued in the legislature, saying that it is better to listen to the noise of microphones here than to the cannonade of automatic weapons there. But, the latest assassination of Bagrov's aide testifies to the fact that silence does not solve problems.

## Chernobyl Plant Operation, Use After Closure Viewed

*WS0102143394 Kiev MOLODA HALYCHYNA in Ukrainian 27 Jan 94 p 1*

[Article by Viktor Demenyev: "The Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Generates 5 Percent of Ukraine's Nuclear Energy. Soon It Could Generate More"]

[Text] The Ukrainian parliament adopted four different resolutions regarding the Chernobyl nuclear plant over the past four years. The station was "executed" three times (deadlines for its stoppage were set for the beginning of 1995, then 1992, and 1993); and in October 1993, the Supreme Council "pardoned" it, permitting it to function until the exhaustion of its technical resources. The last decision was forced by life itself, with the parliament just affirming it. Losing 5 percent of Ukraine's electric energy, generated by the Chernobyl plant, means death for our state—electricity frequency is on the verge of normal levels, reaching at times 49 hertz. Experts know very well that if the frequency goes down, this might trigger a ripple effect paralyzing all industries.

This is another case confirming the proverb that every cloud has a silver lining. It is not the market economy or competition but the station's dire situation that forced its staff to fight for survival on three fronts at a time—to maintain the system of nuclear units, to prepare those units for their decommissioning, and to produce electricity with a 110-118 percent completion of its monthly production plans. As long as the government was handing out subsidies to unprofitable enterprises or even entire industries, fueling inflation, the Chernobyl plant undertook expensive safety measures and at its own cost, carried out a considerable amount of work necessary to put the plant out of commission. During nine months of 1994 alone, safety and reliability outlays amounted to 14 billion karbovanets—one-fourth of the revenues. At the same time, production costs for one kilowatt-hour produced at the Chernobyl plant proved 1.5-fold less than at thermal electric stations, even though it pays world prices for its nuclear fuel.

In terms of security, Chernobyl nuclear units today are as good as comparable Russian ones. As the honorary president of the World Association of Nuclear Plant User States (WANO), Lord Marshall, emphasized ("ATOMNAYA TECHNIKA ZA RUBEZHOM" [Foreign Atomic Engineering], No. 6, 1993), that the "safety of RBMK-type reactors was brought up to quite acceptable levels." Paradoxically, it was opponents of nuclear engineering that helped achieve this condition. Following the accident in 1986, the plant has been working under the constant pressure from the "Green" Party, politicians, media, as well as an enhanced scrutiny of foreign and national experts and monitoring institutions. In December alone, the Chernobyl plant was visited by Mykola Shteynberg, head of the Ukrainian State Atomic Supervising Committee, George Kallman, one the leading experts at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (analogous to the Ukrainian State Atomic Supervising Committee), and Morris Rosen, deputy general manager of the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency].

During the last visit, in addition to the usual problems, a new issue was raised—preparation for resuming the work of the No. 2 unit, which was stopped after the fire on the No. 4 turbogenerator in October 1991. That accident was caused by the malfunction of one of the electric cables, and was not connected with nuclear and radiation safety of the reactor. According to a timetable set at the station, the No. 2 unit is to be ready for reactivation as early as November 1994. Although the Chernobyl plant will again defray most of the costs, government support will be necessary because, as the station's experts say, the bloc's reactivation costs will pay off relatively quickly, funneling net profits to the state budget.

However favorable the situation for the plant might be, the Chernobyl plant experts realize that the date of the plant closure is not too many years from now. This is why the decommission works will be continued. The construction of a new boiler house and a storage facility for liquid and radioactive waste will be completed.

What would replace the energy potential in the north of Ukraine following a shutdown of the Chernobyl plant? The Chernihiv Oblast administration endorsed a project to build a new electrical plant near Slavutych with a 2,000 megawatt capacity. Its type and the kind of fuel will be selected during a technical and economic evaluation of the project, and subsequently put to a referendum by the local population. This is exactly how they act in civilized states when planning to build a new industrial enterprise.

When decommissioned, the Chernobyl plant might still be of some value. For example, it may serve as a foundation for a facility for storing and processing nuclear waste.

## Belarus

### Hryb Urges Professional Legislature, Elections

*WS0202153894 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian 1 Feb 94 pp 1, 3*

[Report by Vladimir Abramovich under the "Press Conference" rubric: "Myechyslaw Hryb: 'The Course of the Supreme Soviet Will Not Change'"]

[Text] On Friday evening [28 January], Myechyslaw Hryb gave his first press conference as chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet.

"The course of the Supreme Soviet will not change," announced Myechyslaw Ivanovich. "It depends on the deputies themselves rather than the chairman."

Speaking about his first moves in the new office, M. Hryb said that, first of all, one must examine the work of the Supreme Soviet which has become ineffective. The new chairman intends to cooperate with all deputies. At the same time, he stressed that he had good relations with the parliamentary opposition and was ready to listen to all of its constructive proposals.

M. Hryb is an advocate of a professional legislature. In his opinion, the work of the Supreme Soviet can be based on professionalism as of today. First of all, it is necessary to change the current mode of work. Myechyslaw Hryb proposed that deputies hold sessions for a week, and meet with constituents and draft laws over the next two weeks. According to his estimates, such regulations will not reduce the number of days spent in sessions. At the same time, this will enhance the deputies' efficiency.

"A statement is not a law," this is how the new chairman commented on the Supreme Soviet plans to hold early elections. He also stressed that this act required the adoption of a relevant law. On the other hand, the parliament speaker supports the idea of holding these elections this year.

According to M. Hryb, he has been Stanislav Shushkevich's supporter for a long time. The chairman noted that Stanislav Stanislavovich had many good traits which he failed to apply in his activities. His disagreements with Shushkevich were political. Hryb could not find a common language with him concerning Belarus' membership in the collective security system and the execution of adopted decisions.

The adoption of a constitution is a very complicated process. Myechyslaw Ivanovich noted that our deputies underrated this fact, and listed foreign countries as examples where constitutional processes lasted for decades. The new chairman spoke out for the introduction of a presidential office in Belarus.

"One may strive sincerely for sovereignty, but how can one achieve it if the Army of the neighboring country is present on our territory," said M. Hryb concerning this pressing issue. He stressed, however, that Belarus was an independent state which would seek neutral status. The new Supreme Soviet chairman emphasized that he had no disagreements with [Prime Minister] Vyacheslav Kebich. He noted that he was looking forward to the reorganization of the government capable of conducting successful reform.

### Views Shushkevich Shortcomings

*LD0202185494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1721 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovsky, and Vladimir Shishlin, edited by Boris Grishchenko]

[Text] The fact that the Belarusian parliament has a new leader does not mean that the political and economic policy in the republic will be changed. This was stated by the Supreme Soviet's Chairman Myecheslaw Hryb at a press conference in Minsk.

On a question put by an Interfax correspondent he answered that he highly appraised the merits of his predecessor. However, he pointed out that Stanislav Shushkevich had lacked "persistence in organization of coordinated activities of different deputies' groups and factions. This is why the new speaker must take this into consideration and correct this."

He emphasized that the peace-loving, friendly relations with neighbors, aspiration to neutrality and recognition of the established borders remained Belarusia's political priorities.

Hryb called a more dynamic transition to the market, rebuilding of the economy's structure and privatization the main domestic task. He recommended that a "serious economist" take the post of the Deputy of the Supreme Soviet's Chairman.

Hryb proposed that 43-year old Ivan Bambiza be nominated his deputy at the parliament's session on Wednesday. His candidacy will be discussed in the parliamentary committees and commissions.

According to the information received by deputies, Bambiza was born in the Gomel Region. He graduated from the Belarusian Institute of Agricultural machinery and received the diploma of a mechanical engineer in 1975. Recently, he has been the head of a regional administration and occupied the post of the Secretary of the Supreme Soviet's Planning and Budget Financial Commission.

### Hryb Instructs KGB To Probe Strike Call

*LD0202162594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1524 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[By BELINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Minsk February 2 TASS—Belarusian Parliament Chairman Myecheslaw Hryb instructed the Republican

KGB to probe the decision of the National Strike Committee which, according to him, contains appeals to topple authorities.

The Strike Committee decided on Wednesday to call an indefinite political strike on February 15. The major demand is the resignation of the government and early parliamentary elections.

"If there are criminal aspects in the issue, criminal proceedings should be instituted jointly with the prosecutor's office and an investigation carried out", Hryb instructed Acting KGB Chairman Gennadiy Lavitskiy.

Hryb informed parliamentarians about his order during the evening session on Wednesday.

### Strikers To Form Worker Detachments, Adopt Appeal

*WS0202213294 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 2050 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Strike Committee at its meeting on 2 February resolved to form worker detachments for maintaining order during the strikes. It was also resolved to request the Belarusian Association of Servicemen to help maintain order. According to BELAPAN, Strike Committee representatives intend to request that the Armed Forces and internal troops not interfere in the upcoming events. A meeting with representatives of a number of political parties and trade unions is also scheduled for 7 February, during which the members of the Council of the Strike Commitees will detail their protest action. Due to organizational reasons, BELAPAN has not been informed of the list of enterprises that agreed to participate in the political strike. However, one can assuredly say that they include the largest enterprises of the country.

### Supreme Soviet Rejects Motion To Hear Strike Chairman

*WS0302092894 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0800 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[Text] Half an hour ago, the 13th Supreme Soviet began its work. Deputies began the day with a discussion of miscellaneous issues. However, at the beginning, Supreme Soviet Chairman Myechyslaw Hryb declared that he received a proposal from more than 20 people's deputies to listen to a speech by the Belarusian Strike Committee chairman. This issue was voted on and was not supported by a majority of deputies. The deputies began discussing miscellaneous issues.

### Supreme Soviet Adopts Law on Vouchers

*WS0202135394 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] At the beginning of today's Supreme Soviet session, Chairman Myechyslaw Hryb congratulated People's Deputy Leonid Dzeyka on the occasion of his birthday. Next, the lawmakers began discussing miscellaneous issues. People's Deputies Shushkevich, Henadz Karpenko, Syarhey Antonchik, and others delivered speeches. Then, the chairman proposed to discuss several key issues. The deputies adopted the Supreme Soviet decree: "On Implementation of the Law of the Republic of Belarus on Joint Stock Companies, Companies With Limited and Additional Liability." The deputies introduced several changes and supplements to current legislation and adopted the Law on Vouchers. In addition, the deputies had the second reading of the law on state tax inspection in the Republic of Belarus. Two hundred and six deputies voted for the adoption of this law. A corresponding Supreme Soviet decree was also adopted. Later, the deputies began to dispute the law on pensions. They introduced some changes and amendments to this law.

The deputies are currently on a break. The evening session will begin at 1600 [1400 GMT].

### Kebich Promotes Economic Integration With Russia

*WS0202153994 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian 1 Feb 94 p 2*

[Report attributed to BELINFORM: "Vyacheslav Kebich: Belarusian Reforms Will Be Continued"]

[Text] On 28 January, the closing meeting of the national seminar on "Key Trends in Overcoming the Social and Economic Crisis and Speeding Up Market Reform, and the Immediate Goals of Executive Committees at Local Soviets of People's Deputies" took place at the Government Building.

The meeting was addressed by Vyacheslav Kebich, chairman of the Belarusian Council of Ministers. Focusing on economic reform, he confirmed the government's unfailing devotion to a market economy with well-considered changes excluding "shock therapy," which proved to be the wrong course of action in other states.

"Belarusian reforms will be continued," said the prime minister. "Slowing them down is completely out of the question. At the same time, our policy will be aimed at deepening our economic integration with Russia. However, we will have the actual result only after the unification of the two monetary systems and the establishment of an exchange rate acceptable to Belarus."

Concerning the practical side of the given issue, the head of the Cabinet of Ministers noted the positive progress of negotiations. V. Kebich reported that a group of specialists from the Russian Central Bank was working in Minsk. They were finalizing the coordination of exchange rates for the national currencies and the policy of issuing money.

The issue of balancing prices for energy resources imported to Belarus from Russia also requires a resolution. According to the Belarusian side, import prices must be unified and approximated to local oil and gas prices for Russian enterprises.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers denied categorically the accusations from the Belarusian Popular Front directed against the government regarding its "restrictions on the sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Belarus." According to V. Kebich, "the course toward the deepening of Belarusian integration with Russia is a way toward the salvation of its economic and national interests."

### Russian Experts Arrive To Finalize Monetary Merger

*WS0202135894 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1240 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] According to reliable sources, a large group of Russian financial and economic experts arrived in Minsk today. The group also includes representatives of the State Cooperation Committee, Customs Control Committee, and the Central Bank of Russia. The visit is connected with preparations for the signing of documents necessary to merge the two countries' monetary systems. An official from the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers, who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity, did not rule out a decision to gradually replace the Belarusian currency with Russian rubles sometime this year. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets is expected to arrive in Minsk later this week to finally resolve this issue.

### Shushkevich on Financial Merger, Plans

*WS0202164594 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 1 Feb 94 p 3*

[Interview with former Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich, by Uladzimir Samoilaw, in Shushkevich's summer house; date not given: "I Am Not Going To Put a Period to My Political Career"]

[Text] [Samoylaw] It is three days since you were recalled. How do you feel; was this scenario a surprise?

[Shushkevich] I am feeling well. I think that should have happened a year and a half ago; it is strange that it did not.

[Samoylaw] Why?

[Shushkevich] A legislative chairman whose views differ categorically from the views of an organized majority of lawmakers cannot expect to work long.

[Samoylaw] What kinds of views?

[Shushkevich] First of all, views on Belarusian statehood and the development of the national economy. No matter how much they talk about reforming the economy, they are doing nothing. This is why the nation is standing on the verge of a grand collapse. This collapse has begun in industries and may gravely afflict agriculture, which would be very dangerous.

[Samoylaw] The common belief is that there is just one way to save the situation—by merging Russian and Belarusian monetary systems. Will this merger become a panacea or do we pin too many hopes on it?

[Shushkevich] I would also like Belarus and Russia to sign a sound agreement in the sphere of monetary relations. However, I believe that the most important issue is parity of prices for power resources. This is very relevant to our economy.

[Samoylaw] Still, it seems that there are many issues on which the sides cannot reach accord, for instance that of exchange rates.

[Shushkevich] I am not worried by exchange rates; let experts resolve that. I am worried about prices. If we continue to pursue the same silly policy as in 1993, paying $128 for a tonne of oil that cost $90 in Rotterdam material exchange.... Where will it bring us? It is impossible to find out who is to blame; who is responsible for this kind of silliness. Nobody was found and punished. A system of responsibility does not exist here.

When 70 percent of the enterprises close down and people are paid two-thirds of their wages, what kind of state can put up with this? The tragedy is that the policy of wasting what our fathers and grandfathers earned is continuing. All measures must be taken to change this trend, but I do not believe that the government is capable of doing this.

[Samoylaw] In light of this, do you think that we will never introduce our national currency?

[Shushkevich] There are many reasons for introducing the national currency. Yet, there are enough reasons not to do so. The main factor is the industrialists' persuasion that it is more convenient to use Russian rubles. In fact this makes absolutely no difference because money is just a measuring device. No matter if we measure with a wooden or a metal ruler—one meter will remain one meter.

[Samoylaw] Did you personally make any mistakes when in the post of Supreme Soviet chairman?

[Shushkevich] I cannot be blamed for strategic mistakes. I wanted to do many things differently but under the circumstances I could not. It is understood that nobody is perfect, but I have no grounds for blaming myself for any political drawbacks.

[Samoylaw] However, you were accused of serious shortcomings, including the destruction of the legislature's work.

[Shushkevich] The point is that those who accused me were experts in a centrally administered economy.

Market mechanisms have not been launched in our country yet; they simply do not exist. At the same time, our laws do not permit properly managing the national economy. This is very dangerous.

We lack courage and consistency to pursue a declared policy. This is a proper policy but nothing is being done to implement it. We are not moving toward privatization or even simple commercialization.

[Samoylaw] Is it true that you have been proposed for a post in the CIS leadership?

[Shushkevich] This post can only be proposed to a legislative chairman.

[Samoylaw] What are you going to do in the future?

[Shushkevich] I have already received written offers of employment.

[Samoylaw] What are they?

[Shushkevich] It is still a secret, because I have not made a final decision yet. Believe me that the offer is very serious.

[Samoylaw] What about your legislative duties?

[Shushkevich] I will actively work, although frankly speaking, I see no chance of changing anything. I could not change anything being the chairman. I will probably work on the educational or cultural committee.

There is still much obscurantism in our economy. I want to point out that I do not feel myself a dilettante in the sphere of macroeconomics. I am proud that I have received an invitation from abroad to deliver a lecture on this subject.

[Samoylaw] Do you believe that the new Supreme Council will be more economically educated?

[Shushkevich] This is what bothers me. I do not know whether it will be more educated, but I believe that it will be more intelligent.

[Samoylaw] Will you participate in the new legislative elections?

[Shushkevich] I am not going to finish with politics.

[Samoylaw] What can you say regarding Lukashenka's accusations?

[Shushkevich] Believe me or not, but neither me nor my family will ever stoop to abuse a position for profit. In this summer house I made everything with my own hands, and I turned to repair companies only when I could not do something. However, I paid for everything. Lukashenka could have come and seen for himself—other people would have done this.

Before you, a foreign correspondent visited me here. He thought he would see a palace and was very surprised that the former Supreme Council chairman has such a "ranch."

[Samoylaw] What advice would you give to NARODNAYA GAZETA readers? What should they anticipate and hope for?

[Shushkevich] I am a NARODNAYA GAZETA reader myself. Press should exist for those who are ruled and not for those who rule. Your newspaper is that kind. I want to tell readers that they should count on themselves, sow, and work. Frankly speaking, I do not expect any improvement soon. I wish our readers had a government that would do what it promises. Unfortunately, I cannot say anything cheerful. Still, man cannot live without hope.

## Views Reasons for Dismissal

*PM0102125594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Feb 94 First Edition p 5*

[Interview with Stanislav Shushkevich, former chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet, by Yadviga Yuferova on 30 January near Minsk: "Stanislav Shushkevich: I Am Not Leaving Big-League Politics"]

[Text] [Yuferova] Stanislav Stanislavovich, I hope we are living in civilized times when resignation is no grounds for personal tragedy but merely part of one's career, so my questions are addressed to the active politician Shushkevich: Why did the chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet resign?

[Shushkevich] The reasons were quite aptly formulated by numerous commentators: The restoration of nomenklatura power. The formal pretexts simply do not stand up to criticism: Anyone who has seen my ordinary dacha, which I began to build with my own hands, knows that not by the remotest stretch of the imagination can it be termed "personal vanity."

It is something else that surprises me: I managed to work on for 18 months after the disposition of forces in the Belarusian parliament had become obvious, where the majority did not need a democrat or centrist as a speaker.

[Yuferova] Politics are a tough team game. You did not have your own party, your own faction in parliament, or even, they say, your own team. Are you a lone politician?

[Shushkevich] I could not make the majority think differently but some newcomers started to think like me—and that is good for our power inclined toward old convictions. I have always had complete mutual understanding with politicians from stable democratic countries.

I was a political romantic; I had no political support among the social strata; some of the intelligentsia understood me. The trouble is that the mass media in our

country are entirely in the hands of those who actually rule and have now finally taken all power. The first organizational meeting of the present government was held by the first secretary of the Communist Party of Belarus Central Committee; this government has in fact brought the republic's economy to its knees. The legislative base for the transition to the market, although it is not the best base, has nonetheless been created.

[Yuferova] But does it not seem to you that the rapid deterioration of the people's life, galloping inflation, also voted against the head of state?

[Shushkevich] Not a single parliament can neglect production. Through the will of the government not a single market mechanism is operating in our country. The state cannot pay two-thirds of their wages to 50 percent of the plants for the umpteenth month when people are doing nothing. We are consuming our fixed capital, everything which our predecessors accumulated.

No one from outside will rectify our own stupidity. They can help, but they cannot cure us from the outside.

[Yuferova] Stanislav Stanislavovich, in that case should the Russian ruble fulfill its "international duty" on Belarusian territory? Many economists in Moscow are less than delighted, to put it mildly, in connection with the union of the two states' monetary systems. For some people the ruble zone will simply be a zone....

[Shushkevich] Nothing threatens the Russian ruble for a reason which has already been cited: The majority of enterprises are out of it—that means we should not expect an eruption of inflation. Our neighbors' empty coffers present no danger. The complication will lie in the mutual settling of accounts. The Russian ruble will help but will not lead us out of the impasse. What difference will it make: There used to be no Belarusian rubles, now there will be no Russian rubles. In my view the unification of the two monetary systems is becoming more problematical with every passing day.

[Yuferova] What was the reaction in the republic to your resignation?

[Shushkevich] I remember a well-known anecdote: Khrushchev was at home shortly after being sent into retirement when his telephone rang. He lifted the receiver: "Hello, at your service." And he heard in reply: "In the past you had to be of service, but now you can come downstairs with us to play dominoes." So what can I say now.... There is a pile of reassuring telegrams, there are people who support me, there are my friends and my family.

[Yuferova] Was there any official or unofficial reaction from Moscow or Kiev? After all the three Belovezhskaya Forest "bison"—Yeltsin, Kravchuk, and Shushkevich—crossed the Viskuli [reference unknown] together into history.

[Shushkevich] No. A resignation is a state's internal affair. And the conservation of friendly relations is our personal business.

[Yuferova] How did the rumor appear that Shumeyko had offered you the post of chairman of the CIS countries' interparliamentary assembly?

[Shushkevich] I have nothing to do with it. The rumor was obviously generated by ignorant people. According to the established rules, only an acting head can head the assembly.

[Yuferova] Who is your successor, elected recently as head of the Belarusian parliament?

[Shushkevich] Myechyslaw Ivanovich Hryb, a retired lieutenant general, headed the national security commission in the parliament, and I once even asked him to be my deputy. And even now I do not cast doubt on his fitting human qualities. Let us see how he does in this position although it is an open secret that a disposition of forces convenient to the government is taking shape in parliament. I should like to wish him success in establishing Belarusian statehood.

[Yuferova] There is a feeling that the present speaker is temporary. No analyst predicted this figure's appearance on the political Olympus.

[Shushkevich] That is a problem for the analysts, not for the speaker now chosen. At the sessions there was frequent talk on the subject but early parliamentary elections were not in fact scheduled (the deputies are utterly reluctant to part with their mandates acquired in the USSR). According to the existing Constitution this parliament has one year and two months to work—until new elections in March 1995.

[Yuferova] If Belarus decides on presidential elections, will you run?

[Shushkevich] For the time being I shall say just one thing: I do not intend to leave political life.

[Yuferova] But considering past mistakes you cannot seriously count on anything as a lone politician. On whom do you intend to rely in the future?

[Shushkevich] Give me two weeks to think. At present it is the fashion to play numerous parts, I want to retain my convictions.

[Yuferova] How have you spent these difficult days since your resignation, who has been by your side?

[Shushkevich] To be honest, I wanted to be quite alone, in the sticks, at my dacha. But it did not work out that way. Close friends have arrived and now I have my daughter, my son-in-law, and my dog Kuzka with me. I regret not having gone to the writers' center today to bid farewell to Ales Mikhaylovich Adamovich. I did not have time. It is 3 km to the local station and another 50 km to Minsk. And my 1983 Zhiguli would not start.

[Yuferova] Stanislav Stanislavovich, it seems to me there is actually another reason here. It is not that simple to mingle with people in a different capacity even at a time of grief.

[Shushkevich] Perhaps there is some truth there.... Ales Adamovich was a man of great principle and honesty.

The people and rulers should have been proud of such a son, but he was obliged to spend the past six years in his favorite foreign land—Russia. Sometimes a man has to die to be understood in his own Fatherland. How painful it was to learn that when Bulat Okudzhava last came to Minsk there was a crowd which abused him. That is our shame, that is the same crew which drove Adamovich from the republic.

[Yuferova] Your immediate plans?

[Shushkevich] Over the past few years I have taken virtually no leave; I will finally enjoy this right and then continue work in parliament as a deputy.

[Yuferova] Have you not thought of the destiny of the professors who went straight from meetings into big-league politics: Akayev, Ter-Petrosyan, Khasbulatov, Landsbergis, Popov, Shushkevich. Can a scholar change profession in his maturity without personal drama? What is your personal experience?

[Shushkevich] The need to understand the thrust of a phenomenon, the need to focus efforts on a specific avenue leads some people to victory, others to resignation. Most likely here it is a case not of their profession but of the size of their personality. [Shushkevich ends]

Shushkevich gave this interview over the telephone on Sunday evening while he was at his dacha near Minsk, of which even PRAVDA, always biased against the former speaker, wrote that the parliamentary commission's claims looked ridiculously inadequate.

They settled accounts with him over a different subject.

## Moldova

### Foreign Minister 'Satisfied' With CSCE Activity

*AU0202143294 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1855 GMT 1 Feb 94*

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 1/2/1994—The new head of CSCE [Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe] Mission to Moldova Richard Christopher Samuel (Great Britain), had today his first meeting with Ion Botnaru, Minister ad interim of Foreign Affairs (temporarily dismissed during the elections). Botnaru stated that so far Moldovan officials are satisfied with the results of CSCE Mission's activity. CSCE Mission recommendations on setting the Dniester conflict were examined at the highest level and are accepted as a basis for continuing the negotiations. The minister said the recent events in Dniester denote an agony of the unconstitutional structures and that Tiraspol regime loses its social basis. "We almost reached an agreement on granting a special juridical status to East districts, in the context of territorial and administrative reform and decentralization of power. Of course, it does not mean federalization or division of territories," pointed out Botnaru. He added the most destabilizing external factor is the presence of Russian 14th Army in Moldova. Samuel stated to BASA that he is just getting acquainted with Mission's activity. He wishes to travel trough Moldova and waits for the Thursday [3 February] meeting with President Snegur in order to contact the sides involved in the controversies. Samuel also asserted that "Mission's main purpose is to accomplish the CSCE Mandate continuing to activate in directions established and supported by his predecessors." It is not the moment to make concrete proposals; we will resume our work where it was finished and we will find new possibilities for positive involvement of CSCE," said Samuel.

### Results of Visit to Strasbourg Reported

*AU0202143694 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1855 GMT 1 Feb 94*

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 1/2/1994—Alexandru Buruiana, chairman of Parliament Commission for Foreign Relations, back from an official visit to Strasbourg, told BASA that Council of Europe representatives he had met support the idea of a national poll in Moldova on its independence. "Experts of European structures believe that, though without juridical effect, such poll would not allow Tiraspol leaders invoke the reason of 'eventual unification,'" Buruiana asserted. The Moldovan delegation met with Catherine Lalumiere, Secretary General of Council of Europe and discussed the Ilascu group problem, working out future steps for releasing the political prisoners. At meetings with top European dignitaries between January 19th and 29th, questions regarding Moldova's adherence to the Council of Europe were examined. Recommendations were issued, also regarding the enhancement of Moldova legislation in accordance with European standards, separation of state powers. The participation of Council of Europe observers in February 27th parliamentary elections was discusses, states a Parliament Press Service communique.

### Snegur Notes Deteriorating Situation in Dniester

*LD0202192394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1721 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 22 for 2 February 1994; by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko]

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur admits that the Tiraspol leaders could organize various provocations, including armed ones, which could lead to bloodshed. This was said in the address to the heads of state and governments of Russia, Ukraine, and Romania (the

members of the quadrilateral group on a peaceful settlement of conflicts in Transdniester) and to UN Secretary-General Butrus-Ghali published on Wednesday.

Snegur pointed out that the socio/political situation in the Moldovan left-bank regions had significantly deteriorated. The leadership of the Transdniestrian anti-constitutional bodies continues to hamper possible settlement of this conflict regardless of the efforts to resolve the conflict by peaceful political means displayed by Moldova, the Moldovan president said.

According to the Moldovan leadership, the main goal of the Transdniestrian leaders is to prevent the inhabitants of Moldova's left-bank regions from participating in the early parliamentary elections in Moldova, planned for February 27.

Snegur addressed the Russian, Ukrainian, Romanian, and UN leaders with a demand to use all their authority and other means in order to influence the Tiraspol anti-constitutional bodies and to create conditions necessary for normal preparations for parliamentary elections. According to the Moldovan president, this could be a move forward toward a final settlement of the conflict in Transdniester.

### Tiraspol Leader Wants To Join Ruble Zone

*AU0202193894 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1800 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Mircea Dascaliuc report from Chisinau]

[Text] President Mircea Snegur's counselor, Ceslav Ciobanu, today characterized the demand recently made by the leader of the Tiraspol separatists, Igor Smirnov, namely that the Republic of Moldova should join the ruble zone as soon as possible, as telling proof of his lack of vision about the economic future of the region and his defiance of the actual situation of the Republic of Moldova and the Eastern rayons.

We have started the reform program in accordance with the memorandum negotiated with the IMF, Mr. Ciobanu also added, whereas nothing is being done in the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic, no kind of reform is carried out.

Through the intention of joining the ruble zone, the Tiraspol authorities want to perpetuate their power and to preserve the status quo of the separatist leadership. Moreover, they want to reestablish—through various ways and means—the situation of the former Soviet Union, Mr. Ceslav Ciobanu, President Mircea Snegur's counselor in charge of economic issues, emphasized.

Also today, a meeting was held in Tiraspol by the City Soviet at which a report on the activity of the Executive Committee and on the budget for the current year were presented. The request by some deputies to include into the agenda other problems, such as rationing foodstuffs, the dismissal of the public education chief, Mrs. Vera Dvoreanu, who is defending the Latin writing in schools in that area, led to fiery discussions, which ended with the initiators leaving the hall in the hope that they would be able to block the proceedings.

On behalf of the Union of Civic Movements and political parties in the Dniester region, Igor Smirnov was asked to dissolve the Tiraspol City Soviet until the elections for local bodies, which are scheduled to be held in April this year. Until then, it was demanded, the local leadership should be handled by Vladimir Emilianov as the representative of Igor Smirnov, the local correspondent of the Chisinau radio-television reports.

### Finance Minister Urges Improving Wage System

*AU0202173594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1855 GMT 1 Feb 94*

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 1/2/1994—Foreign experts consider, contrary to our opinions, that the taxation system in Moldova is reasonable, states to the newspaper NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA (INDEPENDENT MOLDOVA) Claudia Melnic, Moldovan minister of finance. In 1993 the total sum of taxes, including the special fund represented 11-12 percent of the national gross product. In 1991, it represented 38 percent; in 1994 it is planned to represent 15 percent-16 percent. The incomes in state budget in 1993 exceeded the expected amount by 4.3 percent. Referring to the big difference between the consumption basket and salaries, she said the budget was calculated taking into the account that the average salary represents 15 lei and that it will gradually rise afterwards each three months. Statistics for November show the average salary represented 63.4 lei for a state apparatus employee, 58.7 lei for transport employee, 84.2 lei for industry employee and 35.5 lei for agroindustrial employee. The minister of finance pleads for improving the remuneration system. "We have to avoid the disbalance between 20 lei at some enterprises and 200 lei at others; this difference has nothing to do with productivity of labour. Perhaps we shall have to reduce the level of remuneration to 25 lei minimum salaries; this system is applied in Japan, Switzerland etc." Claudia Melnic, the only woman in Sangheli cabinet, states: "It is difficult for a woman to stand a 16-18 hour work. I hope the new Parliament appoints a man in this post," concludes the minister of finance.

## Kazakhstan

### Vietnamese Foreign Minister Pays Visit

*LD3101184994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1648 GMT 31 Jan 94*

[By KAZTAG correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko for TASS]

[Text] Almaty January 31 TASS—"We welcome Vietnam's initiative to set up a joint commission to streamline economic relations. This will help expand cooperation in all spheres," Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko said.

The statement was made at the meeting with visiting Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam in Almaty on Monday.

Tereshchenko stressed that Vietnam has accumulated rich experience in combating inflation, strengthening currency relations and developing the light industry. Kazakhstan and Vietnam could cooperate in establishing joint ventures to process agricultural produce and produce gas and oil, the prime minister added.

Kazakhstan has skilled geological cadres and could help Vietnam with gas and oil prospecting and training specialists, the premier said.

The Vietnamese minister recalled that Vietnam was one of the first countries to have recognised the independence of Kazakhstan. He believes further development of relations would be beneficial to both countries.

### Agreement on Economic Ties Signed

*LD0102165394 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 1 Feb 94*

[Text] Today Vice President Yerik Asanbayev received the Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, who is on a visit to Almaty. Touching upon the Kazakh domestic situation, Asanbayev spoke about the preparation for th forthcoming elections to a permanent parliament. Elections will be carried out openly. Nguen Manh Cam supported the idea of the gradual development of relations between Kazakhstan and Vietnam.

Talks were held between the foreign ministers. Nguen Manh Cam highly evaluated an initiative by President Nursultan Nazarbayev on convening a conference of confidence building measures in Asia. The foreign ministers signed an inter-governmental agreement on trade and economic cooperation and a protocol on consultations between the two countries' Foreign Ministries.

Nguen Manh Cam left for Uzbekistan in the evening.

### Nazarbayev Issues Decree Creating State Treasury

*LD0302113294 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev has issued a decree on setting up a Finance Ministry Treasury with the aim of effective control over revenues and expenditures in administering budget, raising the efficiency of financing state programs, and strengthening control over the proceeds, targeted and other kinds of use of state funds. It will consist of the main board, the ministry and its regional territorial missions, the towns Almaty and Leninsk, and districts in the cities and towns.

The treasury houses are charged with the task of supervising cash performance and republican budget's cash controlling, accounting of cash movement, servicing of external and internal debt of the republic, and regulating financial relations between the republican budget and the state non-budgetary funds.

The National Bank was authorized to supervise the cash performance of the republican budget in accordance with the existing law until the treasury bodies are fully formed. The treasury houses have the right to examine papers at the ministries, departments, enterprises, and organizations related to crediting, transferring, and using of sums of the republican budget. They also have the right to recover money of enterprises, works, and organizations, which were allocated from the republican budget and not being used by them properly. They can also impose sanctions on banks or other financial and credit enterprises for tardy crediting of funds entering the republican budget revenue, or funds that are credited from it to the recipients accounts at the relevant banks or financial and credit enterprises.

The Cabinet of Ministers was charged with the task of issuing a statute on formation and activities of the treasury houses, as well as to submit a proposal to the Supreme Soviet on amending the existing legislature related to assigning the Treasury bodies of rights to cash execution of the republican budget and granting it with other rights that will be stipulated by the statute.

## Kyrgyzstan

### Government Member Warns of Economic Measures

*MK0202143594 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Feb 94 p 3*

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Kyrgyzstan"]

[Text] A government meeting chaired by Prime Minister Apas Dzhumagulov was held in Bishkek to discuss the republic's economic performance in 1993.

Amangeldy Muraliyev, chairman of the State Economic Committee, emphasized that presently the country is

experiencing a slump in production that looks set to worsen, because, on one hand, the stage of industrial restructuring has not yet begun, and on the other the diversification of forms of ownership has not yet reached a level where market mechanisms begin to work. In Muraliyev's view, it is clearly essential to pinpoint sectors to be financed on a priority basis down to the level of individual enterprises and industries; to work out a mechanism of tied credit and investment allocation; and to set up a special government commission to deal with the matters. The State Economic Committee chairman said that transformations in the agricultural sector have facilitated access to land for broad sectors of the population, helped agricultural enterprises achieve greater independence, and given private farmers a new lease on life. Hopes that a competitive environment will emerge following the introduction of new economic methods, however, have not been fulfilled. Muraliyev said that the objectives of financial stabilization require that a number of unpopular measures be taken in the short run. These include the freeing of bread and municipal services prices, the abandonment of licensing, and drastic cuts in loans to state-owned enterprises. We need to find an optimum compromise, he emphasized, between a tight monetary policy, the development of production, and the maintenance of the minimum living standards of the population. In his view this is not an easy task, but the national referendum demonstrated people's high degree of confidence in President Akayev and, hence, in reform. We should draw on this confidence, Muraliyev said, in order to carry out economic reform at this stage in a proper fashion.

## Tajikistan

### Supreme Council Presidium Approves Cabinet

*LD0302122094 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 0400 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[Text] A meeting of the Supreme Council Presidium of Tajikistan took place yesterday. Issues related to the new structure of the Cabinet of Ministers of the republic were discussed.

By a proposal from Abdujalil Samadov, the head of the government, the Supreme Council Presidium of Tajikistan approved Mahmadsaid Ubaydulloyev, Mayonsho Nazarshoyev, [name indistinct] Shokirov, and Munavarsho Nazriyev to the posts of deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Ramazon Mirzoyev was appointed as administrator of the affairs of the Council of Ministers of the republic.

The decrees on appointing the above-mentioned officials are signed by Imamali Rakhmanov, the head of state and chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Similarly, the ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan were appointed yesterday.

Rustam Mirzoyev is appointed as the economy and forecasting minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Mahmad Yunusov is appointed as the finance minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Izatullo Hayoyev is appointed as the foreign economic relations minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Shavkat Umarov is appointed as the industry minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Odil Ochilov is appointed as the construction minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.
[First name not given] Nazirov is appointed as the grain products minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Fariddun Muhiddinov is appointed as the transport minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Bozgul Dodkhudoyeva is appointed as the education minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Ato Khojayev is appointed as the culture minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Alamkhon Ahmadov is appointed as the health minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Saydullo Khayrulloyev is appointed as the Environmental Protection and Water minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Saidamir Zuhurov is appointed as the security minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Bobokhon Mahmadov is appointed as the press and information minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Shukurjon Zuhurov is appointed as the labor and employment minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Ibrohim Usmonov is appointed as the communication minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Aleksandr Shishlyannikov is appointed as the defense minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Yokub Salimov is appointed as the internal affairs minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Shavkat Ismoilov is appointed as the justice minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Abdusattor Jabborov is appointed as the social security minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Bahoviddin Zuhurddin is appointed as the chairman of the State Committee for Construction and Architecture of the Republic of Tajikistan.
[First name not given] Davlatov is appointed as the chairman of the State Committee for State Property of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Rashid Olimov is appointed as the foreign affairs minsiter of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Habibullo Tabarov is appointed as the agriculture minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Hakim Soliyev is appointed as the trade and material resources minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.

### Presidium Endorses New Government Structure

*LD0302112694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[Text] The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan has endorsed the new structure and composition of the country's Council of Ministers. Henceforth, the republic will have 23 ministries and

three state committees. Four deputy heads of government have been deprived of their posts; however, most ministers have kept their portfolios. A Ministry of Security has been formed. It has been decided that the decree of the Presidium of the Tajik Supreme Soviet will be submitted to the next session of the national parliament.

## Uzbekistan

### Vietnamese Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

*LD0202151094 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1131 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Today Nguyen Manh Cam, minister of foreign affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, arrived in Tashkent on an official three-day visit. Today will see talks with his Uzbek colleague and the signing of a protocol on holding consultations between the foreign policy departments of the two states. There will also be a business meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations.

The guest will visit a number of Tashkent enterprises. Tomorrow, the head of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry will be received by President Islam Karimov. It is the first visit to Uzbekistan by a government delegation from Vietnam.

### Signs Cooperation Accord

*LD0202211094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2003 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and Uzbek Foreign Minister Saidmukhtar Said Asymov signed a protocol on cooperation between the two ministries in Tashkent on Wednesday [2 February].

The negotiations in the Uzbek Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations with the participation of the Vietnamese Foreign Minister also took place on Wednesday. The parties discussed and welcomed the draft intergovernmental agreement on trade/economic cooperation.

It was also decided to start working on draft agreements on mutual protection and attraction of investments, on prevention of double taxation and on an inter-bank agreement.

Uzbek President Islam Karimov will receive the Vietnamese foreign minister on Thursday. Thereafter, the Vietnamese delegation will visit Uzbek leading enterprises and go sightseeing in Tashkent.

The visit of the Vietnamese minister will end on February 5.

## Armenia

### Minister Asks UN, CSCE To Condemn Azerbaijan

*NC0202210094 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1800 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] The Armenian foreign minister sent letters today to Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg, the president of the UN Security Council, and Jan Eliasson, the chairman of the CSCE Minsk Group.

In noting the repeated Azerbaijani rejection of the peace plans of Russia and the CSCE, the shelling of and attacks against the territories of Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, and the internationalization of the Karabakh conflict, the foreign minister asked the CSCE Minsk Group to condemn the political and military actions of Azerbaijan and the UN Security Council to consider and implement necessary measures to force UN members to submit to UN resolutions.

### President Supports UN 'Olympics Cease-Fire'

*NC0202192294 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1800 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] The Armenian Foreign Ministry Press and Public Relations Service has reported that President Levon Ter-Petrosyan has sent a reply message to Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympics Committee [IOC], expressing his and his people's determination to help achieve the Olympics cease-fire between 5 February and 6 March 1994 as declared by the 25 October 1993 resolution of the 48th session of the UN General Assembly at the initiative of the IOC.

The message also notes that the Armenian Republic and Nagorno-Karabakh accepted the UN Security Council resolutions on the peaceful resolution to the Karabakh problem and the peace plan of the CSCE Minsk Group, and has given a positive reply to all the proposals of the international community, particularly that of Russia, including Russia's latest proposal to establish a cease-fire as of 1 February 1994.

## Azerbaijan

### Fighting Continues Along Karabakh Frontline

*LD0202151794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1443 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[By ARMENPRESS for TASS]

[Text] Yerevan February 2 TASS—Sporadic fighting went on today along the Karabakh front-line. Azeri Army suffered considerable losses in its night offensive towards the town of Martuni, a source in the Karabakh military headquarters told ARMENPRESS.

On Tuesday night Azeri troops attacked the Armenian border settlement of Movses. After a three-hour shooting Armenian border troops pushed the enemy back to their previous positions, the press service of the Armenian Defence Ministry reported.

### Baku Spurns Russian-Brokered Cease-Fire

*MK0202131094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Feb 94 p 1*

[Report by Aydyn Mekhtiyev under the "Azerbaijan" rubric: "Compromise Did Not Materialize. Vladimir Kazimirov Ends Baku Visit"]

[Text] Azerbaijani leaders have turned down Moscow's proposal for a cease-fire in the area of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict that would have gone into effect at 0000 on 1 February. This transpired on the afternoon of 31 January after the completion of talks in Baku between Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev and Vladimir Kazimirov, chief of the Russian Federation's mediatory mission, who had arrived in Azerbaijani capital. According to reports from Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry sources, the talks were held in a difficult atmosphere. Before noon the Russian diplomat discussed the Russian plan for a peaceful settlement with Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov one on one for more than two hours. The two sides considered the possibility of a cease-fire to go into force on the night of 1 February along the entire front line.

Vladimir Kazimirov, who earlier visited Yerevan and Khankendi (Stepanakert), managed to obtain the Armenian side's agreement to the cease-fire. He then had to convince the Baku authorities of the need to reciprocate. To all appearances, the meeting of the Russian diplomat with the Azerbaijani foreign minister was inconclusive. In a press release on the results of the meeting, Vladimir Kazimirov said that "the conflicting parties still hold uncompromising stances." Nonetheless he expressed his hope that a cease-fire agreement would finally be reached and would go into force on the night of 1 February. However, Kazimirov's meeting with the Azerbaijani president, which took place a bit later, confirmed that Baku was unprepared to compromise with the Armenian side. After the meeting with the Russian diplomat, Geydar Aliyev said that signing a cease-fire agreement would be possible only after Armenian troops left occupied Azerbaijani territories. According to Aliyev, currently Armenian troops occupy seven Azerbaijani districts outside Nagorno-Karabakh, and agreeing to negotiate with Armenia before the troop withdrawal would mean Azerbaijan's submission to Yerevan's pressure.

To all appearances, Azerbaijan's refusal to sign a cease-fire in the region without preconditions means that a meeting of the foreign ministers of Russia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia in Moscow scheduled for this week will be postponed indefinitely.

An official spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry told your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that Moscow was not inclined to see the results of the

Baku talks as a failure of the mediatory mission. In the near future Moscow will continue its peacekeeping efforts to broker a truce in the region. "Without a cease-fire none of the parties is likely to have its demands satisfied," the representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

### Belgian Premier's Letter to Aliyev Reported

*NC0202220194 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 27 Jan 94*

[Text] In a letter to President Geydar Aliyev, Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene said:

Mr. President, I have received your letter dated 28 November 1993. Belgium is well aware of the destruction caused by the dispute in Daghlyk Karabakh and laments that state of affairs. In parallel with our president's tasks as the chairman of the European Union [EU] Committee, my country is making a diplomatic effort within the CSCE Minsk Group's framework to contribute toward the finding of a just solution to that dispute. Any decision for the solution of the problem must be in accordance with CSCE principles and provide for the maintenance of international borders and the protection of the rights of ethnic minorities.

Disturbed by the fate of hundreds of thousands of refugees, who are in serious condition, Belgium and its EU partners have recently decided to increase their humanitarian aid to that region.

Meanwhile, I am convinced that mutual cooperation between Belgium and Azerbaijan can be successfully improved. The Belgian Government is prepared to cooperate with you on that matter.

Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity to convey my respects to you once again.

### Russian Newspapers Facing Circulation Problems

*PM0302093794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Feb 94 First Edition p 6*

[Report by Arif Useynov under the "Former Soviet Union" rubric: "Azerbaijan: Self-Imposed News Blackout"]

[Text] Baku—The situation regarding Russian newspapers in Azerbaijan is blighting the lives of tens of thousands of subscribers. For the fourth month running they have not received LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, ARUMENTY I FAKTY, and PRAVDA—these publications were printed in Baku until recently. The Azerbmetbuatyayymy Production Association makes no secret of who is to blame for this scandal: The Azerbaijan Printing House, which is failing to meet its contractual obligations, is the prime culprit.

It has its own excuses: The Moscow publishing houses do not always settle their debts on time and the Moscow plants producing printing plates are not delivering their goods. There are also problems concerning newsprint.

At the same time, the republic's National Bank has not yet transferred to the publishing houses of Russia and other CIS countries 120 million rubles' worth of subscription fees paid by Azerbaijanis for foreign newspapers and magazines in 1994. The delivery of Russian newspapers in Azerbaijan is therefore altogether problematic.

Against the background of all this, the statement by the official authorities that the republic is experiencing a news blackout is bizarre, to say the least. You get the impression that all the obstacles to the distribution of Russian newspapers in Azerbaijan are artificially created.

The most surprising thing is the lack of realism shown by the Moscow editorial offices. On top of their disappointed expectations, subscribers are also suffering financial losses, as nobody is minded to return them their subscription fees. In similar situations the Moscow publishing houses have arranged for their publications to be delivered by post. Readers may have received them late, but they have received them. And what is going to happen to the delivery of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, the number of subscribers to which has shot up in Azerbaijan?

Here, in addition to applying penalties for breach of contract, the Russian newspaper publishing houses could adopt a different means of financing the printing and distribution of publications in the republic.

## Georgia

### Officials, Groups Preview Yeltsin Visit

#### Minister Lominadze Comments

*LD0202194594 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1610 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] On the eve of the Russian leader's visit to Georgia, our correspondent, Yuriy Dekanosidze, met with Givi Lominadze, minister for state of the Republic of Georgia, chairman of the interim extraordinary committee for western Georgia and a member of parliament. The journalist asked Lominadze to comment on the Abkhaz issue which, it is supposed, will be one of the key issues at tomorrow's meeting.

[Begin recording] [Lominadze] My attitude toward and point of view on Yeltsin's visit is positive. I shall say more: I am pinning definite hopes on it. First of all, any visit of such a high ranking leader, moreover an official one, is in itself an event. Second, we know how many official visits by Russian leaders there have been before and whatever the quality of our relations with Russia may be in future, there will still be a touch of offense

among the Georgian people as—I do not hold the Russian official authorities and personally the Russian president in high esteem. They helped the Abkhaz separatists with all they could, literally using all available means.

I am sure that our relations will be normal. We have no other option. We are destined to be not only neighbors but genuine friends. It is our past, our common faith, community of culture, and links which have been maintained with Russia for centuries now. Therefore, although difficult, still a big step is being taken toward improving these relations and—I am looking into the future—Russia can and must play the most important role in resolving this [Abkhaz] issue.

[Dekanosidze] Let us hope that tomorrow's official visit by Boris Yeltsin will give us cause to hope that at least one step forward will be taken toward resolving the Abkhaz issue.

[Lominadze] Personally, I hope and am sure that this issue will have a certain backing, undoubtedly will have backing because when such high ranking leaders meet against the background of all those events they cannot but discuss and come to a unanimous decision to resolve the conflict between the Georgian and Abkhaz population in Abkhazia. I am sure that Russia's realistic policy will positively influence a solution to this issue, and personally I am sure that Russia's president wishes to resolve this issue. Yeltsin's visit is one of the most essential factors which, in my opinion, can settle the conflict positively. [end recording]

### Official 'Expects Much' From Talks

*LD0202133894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1217 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoria]

[Text] Tbilisi February 2 TASS—Deputy Speaker of the Georgian Parliament Vakhtang Rcheulishvili said that Georgia "expects much from Boris Yeltsin's visit". "We hope that the Russian president's visit will set the beginning to the new stage in relations between the two countries", he said in an interview with the newspaper "SVOBODNAYA GRUZIA", published on Wednesday.

"The period of confrontation, covert and overt, is over", he said. "Economic, cultural and other ties must be restored. We expect that specific steps will be taken to ensure Georgia's territorial integrity and state interests".

### Abkhaz Government Anticipates Visit

*LD0202134994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1224 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoria]

[Text] Tbilisi February 2 Tass—The government-in-exile of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic "pins great hopes on Russia for restoring justice: the restoration of the territorial integrity of the Georgian state", the Abkhazian government, temporarily operating in Tbilisi, issued a statement on Wednesday.

The statement notes that "the earliest organised return of refugees to their homes in Abkhazia without any preliminary conditions and restrictions is among the main issues for restoring mutual trust between Georgia and Russia".

The government asks the Russian leadership "to declare unequivocally its negative attitude to statements by the Gudauta leaders on the establishment of an independent Abkhazian state or its accession to Russia".

The government "hopes that the visit by President Boris Yeltsin to Tbilisi, the signing of a package of documents and planned measures will help to achieve a large-scale settlement in Abkhazia, unity and integrity of Georgia in the interests of its multinational population as well as to ensure stability and peace in the Caucasus as a whole, in Russia and throughout the world".

### Abkhaz Council of Ministers Statement

*LD0202221394 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1530 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Tbilisi, 2 [Feb]—According to IBERIA news agency, the Council of Ministers of the autonomous republic of Abkhazia circulated a statement today in connection with the visit to Georgia by the Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The statement says that the visit of the Russian federation's president to Georgia is an historical event for both of the countries and may be considered the beginning of a positive turning point in Georgia for retaining its territorial integrity and unity.

The document says that the main issue in resolving the Abkhaz conflict is defining Abkhazia's political status.

The Council of Ministers of the autonomous republic of Abkhazia hopes that the Boris Yeltsin-Eduard Shevardnadze meeting and the signing of a package of documents will be useful not only for Georgia but also for Russia.

### Grachev Arrives in Tbilisi; Visits Troops

*LD0202161094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1450 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Albert Kochetkov and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 2 Feb—Immediately upon arrival at Vazyaniy Airport of the group of Russian troops in Transcaucasia, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev paid a visit to the 405th motor rifle Regiment stationed here. Accompanied by commanders of the group of Russian troops in Transcaucasia, the head of the military department acquainted himself with the regiment's combat readiness, the professionalism of its personnel, and their morale.

During his meeting with commanders and officers of the unit and his tour of the military hardware fleet, of the canteen, and the barracks of the personnel, Grachev discussed the procurement of material and technical supplies, foodstuffs, and finances, as well as maintaining the present infrastructure, which includes military and civilian campuses, schools, and community facilities, in a good condition.

In an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, the Russian defense minister expressed satisfaction with his visit to the regiment. "I came to Tbilisi on a working visit today to familiarize myself with the condition of the Russian military facilities located here, and to meet and talk with people, from the rank and file to the generals. But tomorrow I shall be taking part as a member of a Russian Government delegation in talks between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze," the minister said.

### To Meet With Shevardnadze

*LD0202173994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1630 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[by ITAR-TASS correspondents Albert Kochetkov and Mikhail Shvestov]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Feb—The future of military and political cooperation between Russia and Georgia depends on stabilizing the sociopolitical situation in the republic, deciding the political status of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and on Georgia's readiness to adhere to the framework of the collective security treaty. Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said this today at a meeting with the personnel of the 405th motor-rifle regiment in Vozian.

A meeting between the Russian defense minister and Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze with a limited number of people present is scheduled for this evening. The meeting will take place behind closed doors.

Touching upon the total numerical strength of the Russian Armed Forces, Pavel Grachev said the figure of 1.5 million defined by the defense law is not enough to guarantee the country's security. In the minister's opinion, "a reliable Russian army, capable of fulfilling the tasks laid upon it, should number between 2 and 2.1 million by 1995." He said that the president and the head of the Russian government have agreed in principle to the defense department's proposal.

It is proposed that tomorrow's summit will discuss the protocols on exchanges by military delegations and on ensuring aviation and technical provisions for aviation equipment on Russian and Georgian territories, and also a draft agreement on the CIS common borders and their protection.

### Seeks Agreement on Russian Bases

*LD0202141094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1203 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 2 Feb—Pavel Grachev, the Russian defense minister, arrived in Tbilisi today. His visit is taking place within the framework of the visit by the president of the Russian Federation, which starts tomorrow.

The key military question to be decided during the Russian president's visit is the question of establishing Russian military bases on Georgian territory, Pavel Grachev told journalists on arrival.

The interim agreement on the status of Russian forces in Georgia expires in 1995, he recalled. "We are willing to keep our troops in Georgia provided military bases are established for them. This fits in with the CIS's treaty on collective security. If the two heads of state resolve the bases issue satisfactorily tomorrow, the agreement will be worked out by military experts," the minister said. There is a possibility that a protocol of intent on the establishment of Russian military bases in Georgia could be signed, he added.

If agreement is reached on the bases, the Russian side expects to have three military bases on Georgian territory, making a total of five in the Transcaucasus area, with a combined strength of about 23,000 men. The main task of this grouping, Pavel Grachev said, is to safeguard security in the Transcaucasus and North Caucasus regions against outside threats, within the framework of the CIS's collective treaty.

Pavel Grachev also noted that the question of assisting Georgia with the formation of an army "would be resolved provided political stability is established in the republic, and the political status of Abkhazia and South Ossetia defined". Pavel Grachev considers it possible that Russian peacekeeping forces might be used to settle the situation in Abkhazia, provided that both the Georgian and Abkhaz sides ask for this.

### Further on Grachev Activities

*PM0202195594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Feb 94 p 1*

[Report by Aleksandr Pelts: "Russian Federation Defense Minister Arrives in Tbilisi"]

[Text] Tbilisi— On the eve of the official visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin Army General Pavel Grachev, minister of defense of the Russian Federation, has arrived in Tbilisi; he will take part in talks at the highest level.

On 2 February the defense minister and officials accompanying him visited the Russian Motorized Infantry Regiment. At a meeting with officers Army General

Grachev stressed that the question of the possibility of setting up Russian military bases in Georgia will be raised at the talks. The Georgian leadership on the whole supports this idea and is ready to discuss it. In particular, Russia proposes to set up bases in Batumi, Akhalkalaki, and Vaziani.

Pavel Grachev stressed that, if this proposal is accepted, the character of the tasks which Russian troops are performing in Georgia and the conditions of their stay will change, insofar as the cost of their upkeep will be shared equally. The functions of the Russian troops will also change significantly—they will take part in collectively safeguarding the security of the Transcaucasian region. Russia intends to maintain a grouping of 23,000 servicemen in the Transcaucasus. In addition, it is planned to locate a further base in Armenia and a military facility in Azerbaijan.

Pavel Grachev stated that the heads of the two states will be presented with the prepared draft of a "Protocol Between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Georgia on the Intended Creation of Russian Military Bases on Georgian Territory." Two further protocols have been prepared—on the exchange of military delegations and on technical aviation support for aircraft and equipment on both Russian and Georgian territory.

The Russian Federation defense minister rejected Abkhazian fears that Russia intends to significantly reinforce the Georgian Army in technical respects. He stated that any steps in this direction are possible only in the event of the solution of the Abkhazian problem by political methods.

In an exclusive interview with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Army General Grachev stressed that the military delegation will raise at the talks the issue of the inescapable liability of nationalist extremist forces whose actions have led to the deaths of Russian servicemen.

### Proposes Stationing 18,000 Troops

*AU0202155994 Paris AFP in English 1550 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Excerpts] Tbilisi, Feb 2 (AFP)—A Russian request to station 18,000 troops in Georgia in three military bases is to be at the centre of talks here Thursday between Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze, a top Russian official said.

The official, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, arrived here Wednesday [2 February] on the eve of the summit, highlighting the importance of military issues in the meeting between the two heads of state, independent Georgian sources said.

The defence minister said Russia would be willing to keep troops in Georgia, where they have been instrumental in putting down an insurgency against Shevardnadze, as long as three bases are set up for them after an interim agreement expires in 1995.

Russia is also planning to station forces at two other bases in the troubled Caucasus region—Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan—where it currently has 23,000 men under arms.

Moscow has said it plans to remain involved in the security of many of the former Soviet states and will station troops in the area that it now calls "the near-abroad."

But while the talks in Tbilisi will focus on bilateral relations, the bloody Abkhaz rebellion in western Georgia is likely to preoccupy both sides.

Yeltsin bodyguards have warned they fear possible incidents sparked by anger in Georgia over perceived Russian support for the Abkhaz separatists who wrested control of the Black Sea region from Tbilisi in September.

The summit, which comes after two years of frosty relations, could reverse perceived alliances with the Abkhaz fearing Russia is about to offer a military alliance to Georgia, at the expense of their separatist republic.

Already, the Abkhaz government leader, Sokrat Dzhindzholia, has protested at the proposed signing in Tbilisi on Thursday of a "friendship and cooperation" treaty between Russia and Georgia, which he claims would "open the Russian arsenal to Tbilisi." [passage omitted]

More than 100 Russian officials have arrived in Tbilisi ahead of the summit, notably to ensure Yeltsin's safety.

### Soskovets, Kozyrev, Sobchak Accompany Yeltsin

*LD0302093294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0856 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 3 Feb—Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived in Tbilisi today. Among the Russian delegation accompanying the president were First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, and St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak. Defense Minister Pavel Grachev arrived in Tbilisi yesterday.

The honored guest, the Russian head of state, was welcomed by the chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of state, Eduard Shevardnadze, Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia, members of the cabinet of ministers, the speaker and members of the Georgian parliament and officials of the head of state's staff.

The Russian president's official visit to Georgia has begun. A treaty on friendship, good-neighborliness and cooperation between the two states will be signed today.

## Visit Against Aides' Advice

*MK0302110094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 3 Feb 94 p 1*

[Report by Petr Zhuravlev under the "Visit" rubric: "Boris Yeltsin in Georgia. Moscow and Tbilisi Sign Good-Neighbor Treaty"]

[Text] On Thursday morning the Russian Federation president arrived in Tbilisi, where he is expected to sign a wide-ranging treaty with Georgia. In addition it is planned to sign a whole series of documents, including agreements on the status and conditions of the presence of Russian border troops in Georgia and a free-trade agreement between the two countries. According to Andrey Kozyrev, a centerpiece of the Tbilisi talks will be the problem of conflict settlement in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

The friendship treaty between the Russian Federation and Georgia would not be different from other documents of such type were it not for two articles in the text that make it sound more like a military-political agreement. What is at issue in the first place is Article 3, which stipulates that Moscow and Tbilisi "conclude an agreement on providing assistance in organizing the armed forces of the Republic of Georgia; equipping them and procuring armaments, military hardware, and technology without the right to transfer them to third persons other than upon consent of the Russian Federation." Under Article 4, Russia and Georgia undertake to "take measures to stop attempts to use their territories to create subversive groups" and also to prevent "the infiltration into the territory of the other side of formations planning to overthrow or to change its constitutional order or to violate its territorial integrity."

In light of the above two articles, Eduard Shevardnadze's recent statements that the thaw in Georgian-Russian relations is not to the Abkhazian leaders' advantage because it robs them of "a base for separatism" is becoming more understandable. In fact, that section of the treaty is clearly pro-Georgian or anti-Abkhazian, which is actually the same thing. To all appearances, it will be difficult to have the treaty ratified in the Federal Assembly. At any rate, yesterday the leaders of the agrarians, communists, "Russia's Choice," and "Yabloko" signaled their negative attitude to its current phrasing.

As for President Yeltsin's immediate entourage, the greatest doubts were raised by the very idea of a head of the Russian state's paying a visit to Georgia. An authoritative presidential adviser said that the visit was supported only by Andrey Kozyrev. The other day Mr. Yeltsin had to learn a whole series of openly critical opinions from his consultants on international problems. In particular, although the duration of the visit was reduced to one day instead of two, its itinerary still included a meeting with representatives of the Georgian intelligentsia. In the view of presidential experts, Tbilisi's intellectuals have an extremely disapproving view of Eduard Shevardnadze, who will, naturally, accompany his Russian counterpart to the meeting. That same presidential adviser told SEGODNYA that "what is at issue is not whether the meeting will be conclusive and fruitful, but whether we will be able to avoid incidents."

The problem of possible "incidents" was considered among the most serious ones during the preparation for the visit. An advance team of the Kremlin security service, which traveled to Tbilisi a few days ago "to study the situation on the ground," presented a detailed report to their patron, a reliable source said. The report concluded that going to the Georgian capital was simply impermissible given the degree of the spread of the most diverse firearms left from the time of the Abkhazian war. Boris Yeltsin, however, ignored the opinion of his own bodyguards.

Georgian special services, too, have been taking emergency security measures on the eve of the visit. According to news agencies, the operations to protect and to keep track of the Russian president's route will involve 5,000 policemen and around 300 officers of the Georgian Security Ministry.

## Summit Begins

*LD0302101294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0943 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Tbilisi February 3 TASS—Russo-Georgian summit talks began at the Georgian Government House here on Thursday morning. The heads of the two states—Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze—are now having tete-a-tete talks.

Members of the two official delegations are meeting at the same time behind closed doors in order to make the negotiations more comprehensive and constructive.

ITAR-TASS has learned that bilateral, primarily economic relations between the two countries are now being discussed by First Vice-Chairman of the Russian council of Ministers Oleg Soskovets and Chairman of the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers Otar Patsatsia.

Political aspects of inter-state cooperation are being discussed by Foreign Ministers Andrey Kozyrev and Aleksandr Chikvaydze. Taking part in the talks from the Georgian side is Chairman of the Provisional Committee for the Emergency Situation in the Republic Jaba Ioseliani and Head of the Human Rights and Inter-Ethnic Relations Committee Aleksandr Kavsadze.

Judging by the participants of this part of the negotiations, they are dealing not only with Russo-Georgian relations as a whole, but also with some aspects of the Abkhazian and South Ossetian problems, as well as with the rights of non-indigenous nationalities, particularly the Russian-speaking population.

Heads of the defence establishments of the two countries are discussing a package of draft documents on cooperation in the military sphere. Future military-political cooperation between Russia and Georgia depends on the stabilisation of the socio-political situation in the republic. This was stated by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev on the eve of President Yeltsin's visit to Georgia. In his opinion, this also depends on the settlement of problems linked with the political statuses of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, as well as on Georgia's readiness to act in keeping with the Collective Security Treaty.

Then the talks were continued on a broader scale with the participation of the official delegations of the two countries. A package of bilateral Russo-Georgian documents are expected to be signed after them. The most important document, of course, is the Treaty on Friendship, Good-Neighbourly Relations, and Cooperation.

ITAR-TASS has learned from circles close to the Georgian delegation that the republic's leadership believes that "the signing of this treaty will restore the disrupted ancient ties, will add new substance to bilateral relations, fully meeting the interests of the two nations".

A joint press conference will be held by President Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze after the signing ceremony. President Yeltsin will meet Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia Iliya II in the second half of the day. Then the Russian president and Eduard Shevardnadze will meet Georgian intellectuals.

An official dinner will be given in honour of the Russian president in the evening of the same day on behalf of head of the Georgian state Eduard Shevardnadze.

President Yeltsin will return to Moscow late on Thursday evening.

### Yeltsin, Shevardnadze Sign Treaty

*LD0302112994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[Text] Our correspondent reports that the presidents of Russia and Georgia have signed a treaty on friendship, goodneighborliness and cooperation between the two states. The treaty comprises 35 articles in which the contracting parties pledge to cooperate in the political, military and economic spheres. Experts are focusing most attention on those articles which acknowledge the inalienable rights of Russia and Georgia to adopt the necessary measures to protect their state borders. The sides will independently confront the questions of ensuring national security and defense construction, and in this regard will conduct close cooperation and practical interaction.

The sides will adopt measures to ensure the effective implementation of the agreement on the temporary sojourn of Russian troop formations on the territory of the Georgian Republic.

According to Article four, Russia and Georgia pledge not to take part in any alliances or blocs aimed against each other, nor will they render assistance to third states in the event of an outbreak of armed conflicts between these states and another party.

The current treaty covers a period of 10 years.

### Explosion Kills Deputy Defense Minister

*LD0302092294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0918 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi February 3 TASS—Georgian Deputy Defence Minister Nikolay Kekelidze was killed early on Thursday [3 February] by an explosion in his own apartment in downtown Tbilisi, the Defence Ministry said and added that this was evidently an act of terrorism.

Kekelidze supervised the military-industrial complex and law enforcement agencies.

[Paris AFP in English at 0915 GMT on 3 Feb in a Moscow-datelined report adds: "The blast, which occurred around 4:00 a.m. (0100 GMT), also killed another member of the minister's family."]

### Paper Publishes Friendship Treaty With France

*AU0302114394 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 25 Jan 94 p 2*

["Treaty on Mutual Understanding, Friendship, and Cooperation Between the Republic of Georgia and the French Republic" signed in Paris on 21 January]

[Text] The Republic of Georgia and the French Republic, henceforth to be called the sides,

taking the firm decision to develop cooperation and friendly relations;

certain of the necessity that their relations be based on the principles of trust, freedom, universally recognized values, and democracy and justice;

recognizing the supremacy of international law in relations between countries;

basing themselves on the aims and principles of the UN Charter;

confirming the obligations undertaken by signing the CSCE Final Act and the Paris Charter for a New Europe;

expressing the conviction that future cooperation between the two countries is closely connected with the strengthening of peace, security, and stability in Europe and Asia;

envisaging the construction and significance of the European Union in the formation of a peaceful and united Europe,

have agreed to the following:

Article 1

The Republic of Georgia and the French Republic commit themselves to developing cooperation on the basis of mutual trust and bilateral interests.

The sides will promote the further deepening of mutual understanding and friendship between the French and Georgian peoples.

If necessary, the sides will sign new agreements in order to implement the provisions of this treaty.

Article 2

The Republic of Georgia and the French Republic will cooperate within the framework of both bilateral and multilateral relations.

Remaining faithful to the universally recognized principles of democracy and freedom, the sides will cooperate in the corresponding international organizations in the sphere of promoting the defense of human rights and basic freedoms.

The sides will act in order to prevent conflicts and will ensure international security and the supremacy of international law in relations between these countries.

Article 3

In order to exchange views, the Republic of Georgia and the French Republic will regularly hold consultations at the appropriate level on both bilateral and international problems, in particular, on fundamental questions of security and cooperation in Europe.

In this sphere, the sides will take joint and coordinated actions in order to bring their positions as closely together as possible if need be.

With this aim, on the basis of an agreement between the sides, summit meetings will be arranged. The ministers of foreign affairs, as a rule, will meet with one another once a year.

Working meetings between the representatives of the ministries of foreign affairs will be organized when necessary.

The representatives of the governments of the two parties to the treaty will meet one another when necessary in order to discuss questions of mutual interest.

Article 4

If, in the view of one of the sides, a situation arises that constitutes a threat to peace, violates it, or puts in doubt the most important interests of the country's security, this side can turn to the other side regarding these questions and immediately hold consultations. The sides will try to elaborate a common approach in order to overcome the situation that has taken shape.

Article 5

The Republic of Georgia and the French Republic will hold consultations within the framework of those international organizations of which they are members, in particular within the framework of the UN, in order to bring their positions together if need be and ensure the most effective implementation of the decisions adopted within the sphere of this organization.

Article 6

The French Republic commits itself to promoting the development of relations between the Republic of Georgia and EC structures.

The commitments that the French Republic undertakes in accordance with the bilateral agreement with the Republic of Georgia do not contradict the rights of the EC structures and also the decisions adopted by their institutions.

Article 7

The Republic of Georgia and the French Republic will cooperate closely within the framework of the CSCE.

The sides will coordinate their actions in order to strengthen its institutions, in particular from the legal point of view, and ensure stability, security, and justice on the continent of Europe.

The sides will especially promote the adoption of such principles that will play a positive role in the prevention of conflicts.

The sides will cooperate with one another and other interested states in order to conclude a treaty on security in Europe.

Article 8

The French Republic attaches great importance to the creation of the European Union, which envisages the implementation of a common foreign and defense policy and will strengthen cooperation between the European countries and play an important role in strengthening stability in Europe and the world as a whole.

Georgia fully shares this position.

Article 9

The Republic of Georgia and the French Republic emphasize the importance of the agreements on disarmament for Europe and international security. The sides support the process of disarmament within the framework of the CSCE, in particular the Forum on Security and Cooperation, the strengthening of mutual trust and security, and the prevention of conflicts.

The sides attach particular importance to the adoption of such measures whose aim is the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the restriction of conventional weapons and, to this end, they will act in concert in international organizations.

The French Republic has greeted with satisfaction the decision of the Republic of Georgia to become a nonnuclear country.

Article 10

The French Republic and the Republic of Georgia will develop and expand contacts in the military sphere. With this aim, the sides will regularly exchange views regarding their defense concepts.

The sides will promote the development of relations between their foreign and defense ministries and also between the general staffs of the armed forces of both states.

Article 11

The French Republic and the Republic of Georgia will pay particular attention to the development of cooperation in the branches of agriculture, power engineering, and scientific research.

Article 12

The French Republic and the Republic of Georgia will develop cooperation in the training of cadres in the economic and social spheres. Each side will try to improve the working conditions of enterprises belonging to the other country on its territory with the particular aim of protecting direct and capital investments.

Article 13

The French Republic and the Republic of Georgia will promote cooperation between the parliaments of both states.

Article 14

The Republic of Georgia and the French Republic will develop direct ties between the towns and regions of both countries and, in particular, will arrange the twinning of towns taking into account the provisions of this treaty.

The sides will promote relations between the political, social, and trade-union organizations of both countries.

Article 15

The Republic of Georgia and the French Republic will develop cooperation in the spheres of education, culture, and science and technology.

The sides will promote the establishment of cultural institutions in both states. Each side will try to familiarize the population to a better degree with the scientific, technological, and cultural achievements of the other side and, to this end, will facilitate the supply and dissemination of the literature and press of the other side.

Each side will try to give all interested persons the opportunity to learn the other side's language, culture, literature, and history.

In order that the peoples of the Republic of Georgia and the French Republic can get to know one another, the sides will develop cooperation in the sphere of the media.

The sides will promote the establishment of contacts between the citizens of both states, particularly between young people.

The sides will also develop cooperation in the spheres of sport and tourism. The sides will elaborate joint programs that will determine priority lines of cooperation and mutual exchange in the spheres of culture and science and technology and will plan specific measures to implement them. They will promote the establishment of direct contacts between universities, other higher educational establishments, research centers, cultural institutions, and other corresponding agencies.

Article 16

Taking into account the importance of the protection of the environment, the Republic of Georgia and the French Republic will cooperate closely in this sphere and commit themselves to promoting coordinated actions on a European and world-wide scale.

Article 17

The Republic of Georgia and the French Republic will cooperate closely in the consular sphere. The sides will create appropriate conditions aimed at promoting the [free] movement of citizens of both states.

Article 18

The Republic of Georgia and the French Republic will promote cooperation between the law-enforcement agencies of both states, in particular mutual assistance in the sphere of civil law.

The sides will engage in cooperation between agencies maintaining public order in the system of Interpol; they will jointly struggle against organized crime and the smuggling of drugs and contraband, including works of art; and expand cooperation in the struggle against international terrorism.

Article 19

The Republic of Georgia and the French Republic will cooperate in the sphere of humanitarian aid and will promote the establishment of corresponding ties between the authorized agencies.

Article 20

The provisions of this treaty do not contradict the obligations undertaken by the sides in respect of a third side and are not directed against any of them.

Article 21

This treaty is subject to ratification and comes into force 30 days after the instruments of ratification have been exchanged.

The treaty is valid for 10 years and is automatically extended after every five years. Each side has the right to denounce the treaty at any time by communicating the denunciation in writing to the other side through diplomatic channels. The denunciation comes into force six months after the aforementioned denunciation has been received.

Concluded in the city of Paris on 21 January 1994 in two copies, each one in French and Georgian. Both texts have equal force.

[Signed] E. Shevardnadze, on behalf of the Republic of Georgia

F. Mitterrand, on behalf of the French Republic

## Estonia

### Luik Speaks at Partnership for Peace Signing

*LD0302114094 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1100 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[Text] Estonia today joined NATO's Partnership for Peace program, and as with many other eastern European countries, stated its wish to eventually become a full member of the North Atlantic bloc. Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik signed the partnership agreement at the NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Estonia sees its possible future NATO member status as part of a wider European integration framework, Luik said at the official signing ceremony. The foreign minister noted that the Baltic countries are at the forefront in Europe in the fight for democracy and stability, and confirmed that reports coming from Moscow [as heard] cause anxiety in Estonia. Luik also stated that Estonia wants to have good relations with a democratic Russia. Only those countries who are certain of their security can be equal [word indistinct] partners for Russia, the foreign minister said. He also said that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania form a joint partnership [words indistinct] will be used in joint NATO actions within the partnership plan.

### Signs Partnership Initiative

*LD0302104194 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Juri Luik signed the Partnership for Peace agreement at the NATO headquarters, at a NATO secretariat session. NATO had already signed the agreement previously. The secretariat session was chaired by Deputy Secretary-General Amedeo De Fanchis. After the signing Fanchis and Luik intend to have a tete-a-tete conversation. [passage omitted] Estonia is the fourth country to join the program, after Poland, Romania, and Lithuania.

### NATO To Assess Plans

*WS0202153694 Tallinn BNS in English 1324 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 02, BNS—A NATO delegation arrives this afternoon in Tallinn to introduce the aims and scope of the Partnership for Peace program here and get a better idea of how well Estonia is prepared to take part in the program.

The delegation includes Ole Bierring, permanent representative of Denmark to NATO; Hermann von Richthofen, permanent representative of Germany to NATO; Klaus Steinkopff, special assistant to SACEUR [Strategic Air Command Europe]; John Barrett from NATO's Political Affairs Division; and Col. Richard Cohen, branch chief of the Military Cooperation, Plans and Policy Division.

Maj. Gen. Aleksander Einseln, Commander of the Estonian Defense Forces; Vello Saatpalu, chairman of the parliamentary Foreign Relations Commission; and Eerik Kross, adviser to the foreign minister, will attend a dinner today hosted by Norwegian Ambassador to Estonia Brit Lovseth.

The NATO delegation is scheduled to meet tomorrow with Defense Minister Indrek Kannik, Einseln, Deputy Chairman of the parliamentary National Defense Commission Peeter Lorents, Foreign Ministry Chancellor Alar Olljum, and ambassadors to Estonia of NATO member states.

The delegation gives a press conference tomorrow afternoon.

The NATO mission visited Poland and Lithuania before coming to Estonia and heads from Tallinn for Riga.

### Firms Ready To Produce NATO Standards Ammunition

*WS0202190294 Tallinn BNS in English 1652 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 02, BNS—Several Estonian companies have expressed interest in producing 5.56 mm, 9 mm and 7.62 mm ammunition that conforms to the NATO standards, but BNS has information the Defense Ministry hasn't yet made a final decision.

Former Defense Minister Juri Luik told BNS at the end of last year that his ministry is looking into three possibilities to produce NATO standard cartridges in Estonia, and that negotiations with some companies are in progress.

Toomas Noorem, director of the Tartu-based Tarkon company, told BNS it is possible to produce cartridges at Tarkon.

"For this, only a couple of machine tools and some skilled men are needed," he said. "We haven't so far been approached, however, nor have we held any talks, but we would certainly be interested in such an offer."

Noorem said Tarkon is capable of producing other equipment for the defense forces, including communications systems. He told BNS, however, that it seems to him Estonian officials are at present not sufficiently interested in local production of necessary equipment.

"Estonia has until now tried to buy everything from other countries, although we could manufacture some things locally," he said.

BNS has information the Turi-based Arbalett joint-stock company approached the Defense Ministry with a proposal for manufacturing cartridges. The Defense League Foundation is one of the partners in the company.

Leonid Pivovarov, commercial director of Narva's Balti ES firm (former Baltiyets), told BNS the Defense Ministry has made no concrete proposals to his company.

"Six months ago the factory submitted its offers to the Defense Forces general staff," he said. "The factory produces dosimeters and radiometers that are used by the Estonian customs officials.

"Balti ES could make also armored doors, electronic locks, security systems, medical equipment, and simulators for training soldiers," Pivovarov said.

Vladimir Galkin, Dvigatel's director general, also told BNS nobody has approached his factory with a proposal to produce cartridges.

"We are considering cooperation offers from more than 40 companies," he said. "We need clarity on who places the order and who pays, what the scope of the project is and what experts think, but we expect to iron out all problems through negotiations."

### Premier Notes 'Breakthrough' at Davos Forum

*WS0202150894 Tallinn BNS in English 1324 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 02, BNS—Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar attended the World Economic Forum that ended Tuesday [1 February] in Davos, Switzerland. The premier was pleased to note that Estonia made a breakthrough at the forum. "Estonia was all the time spoken about as a real partner," he said.

Laar said at a press conference today that economies in transition became the focus of attention at the Davos forum. "The participants arrived at the conclusion that the transition of many states from a planned economy to a market economy makes also developed countries undergo major changes," he claimed.

The premier said the forum attached great importance to free trade and opening of borders as the best ways to develop world economy. "The protectionist attitude is considered the greatest danger to world economy," he noted.

Laar said a high-level Russian delegation arrived in Davos to convince Western businessmen and politicians that economic reforms continue in Russia. "I gathered they didn't succeed very well in this," he said.

The Estonian premier had several bilateral and three-way meetings in Davos. He was pleasantly surprised by the Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat's high regard for Estonia.

Laar met in Davos with Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus. The two agreed in principle to conclude as soon as possible a free-trade agreement between the two countries.

The Estonian premier met also with his Swedish and Finnish counterparts, Carl Bildt and Esko Aho. Laar said he and Bildt had a thorough discussion of the situation in Paldiski. "Sweden is prepared to assist Estonia in cleaning up the environment in that town," he said.

## Latvia

### Clinton, Gore Meet With Latvian Diplomats

*WS0202185794 Tallinn BNS in English 1652 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Riga, Feb 02, BNS—U.S. President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore met with Latvian diplomats and MP's Wednesday [2 February] and said they hoped the visit would help Latvia to face the serious challenge of the Russian troop withdrawal and the Skrunda problem.

The U.S.-Latvian military cooperation will substantially expand this year, said Willian Perry, under secretary for defense. The cooperation will include visits of U.S. warships to Latvia's ports, joint maneuvers with U.S. and NATO's Armed Forces.

The U.S. president has received a draft resolution to lift restrictions of shipments of all kind of war materials to the Baltic states, Perry said.

Latvian parliamentarians voiced a concern over the lack of any security guarantees what was said to be potentially dangerous against the background of the political climate in Russia becoming worse.

U.S. officials reiterated that the Baltics were granted a priority status in the American foreign policies. Consequently, the absence of concrete security guarantees should not be overdramatized because formal guarantees are actually redundant.

The United States had never signed a formal security treaty with Israel but the existing relationship allows to attain the desired result without a formal document, U.S. speakers said.

The Latvian-U.S. relationship is also very close to similar attitudes, they noted.

The Latvian delegation met with Senator Carl Levin and discussed the potential U.S. financial support for the dismantling of the Russian military early-warning anti-missile radar in Skrunda, Latvia. The senator promised to study the request.

The group also visited Anthony Lake, president's adviser on national security issues.

### Delegation Meets With Christopher

*LD0202171794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1621 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga February 2 TASS—Latvia's delegation ended talks on Latvian-Russian relations, the withdrawal of Russian troops from the republic and the fate of the Russian radar in Skrunda in Washington on Wednesday.

The delegation met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Pentagon officials and members of the

National Security Council. They assured Latvia that no joint tactics of troop withdrawal or radar station close-down had been worked out during the U.S.-Russian summit meeting in Moscow last month.

Their statements ran counter to a NEW YORK TIMES publication of January 30, 1994 which said that American and Russian specialists had agreed to keep the station for another four years and dismantle it within 18 months after that. Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis did not rule out the possibility of holding a referendum on the radar station. However, Parliament Chairman Anatoliy Gorbunovs believes the referendum may disrupt negotiations.

Latvian parliamentarians who attended the session of the Europarliament Inter-parliamentary Assembly in Strasbourg this week expressed concern that some influential deputies from France, Germany and Britain prioritise the signing of agreements between Estonia, Latvia and Russia on troop withdrawal rather than the pullout itself.

Local observers are at a loss trying to find possible explanations to this position. Latvia insists on strict observance of resolutions of the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe which call for fast and organised withdrawal of troops. At the same time, head of the Latvian Parliamentary Commission for Foreign Affairs, Aleksandrs Kirsteins, vows that the troops can be withdrawn without any agreement.

The delegation left the U.S. and flew to Sweden where it intends to continue the talks.

### Defense Delegation Discusses Security

*LD0202201994 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1800 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] In the event the Baltic countries or Latvia join the Partnership for Peace program and a real danger from Russia threatens its security, NATO will not only have consultations with the Baltic countries but will try to influence Russia to cease its aggressive activity, the delegation of the Latvian Defense Ministry was told today in Brussels by (Dick Zandie), spokesmen for the political affairs department.

(Zandie) added that there are virtually no such threats from Russia in reality, and that much would be done for Latvia's security by Russia's participation in the Partnership for Peace program. In (Zandie's) view, cooperation with Russia would also be good for NATO. At NATO headquarters today, the Latvian Defense Ministry delegation met with two other NATO spokesmen. During the meeting they mainly discussed European security problems and the involvement of NATO in solving them.

### CSCE Mission Views Minority, Withdrawal Issues

*WS0202143294 Tallinn BNS in English 1110 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Liepaja, Latvia, Feb 02, BNS—The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe's mission is visiting the Liepaja city this week to acquaint itself with the problems of ethnic minorities and the Russian troop withdrawal here.

Mission's members Jakub Volsky and Johan Olav Seland plan to meet with local authorities, artists and entrepreneurs.

The mission will stay in Latvia until September to consult the Latvian government on citizenship, ethnic minorities and troop withdrawal.

### Draft on Russian 1940 Annexation Approved

*WS0202190194 Tallinn BNS in English 1652 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Riga, Feb 02, BNS—The Latvian Saeima (parliament) Foreign Affairs' Committee approved the historic motivation of a draft document on the occupation and annexation of Latvia by the Soviet Union in 1940.

The Saeima decided Jan. 27 that this document should be submitted to the United Nations together with a request to officially recognize that Latvia was occupied in 1940.

The adoption of the document does not solve the Russian troop withdrawal problem but it is still important as an instrument to press on Russia, said Indulis Berzins, of the Latvia's Way.

If the United Nations approves of the document, Latvia would become aware of the attitude of the world community toward the occupation, Berzins said.

The United Nations, however, may reject or ignore the statement if Latvia has not duly prepared its presentation, said Janis Jurkans, another speaker at the committee meeting.

Democratic Party's Ilga Grava suggested that Lithuanian and Estonian parliaments should be invited to draft a common statement on occupation.

The preliminary coordination of that declaration could take place during the Baltic-Nordic seminar, scheduled for Feb. 4-5 in Riga.

Estonia has prepared a similar statement.

The committee wants to consult Russian parliamentarians to clarify Russia's official stance on the acknowledgement of Latvia's occupation.

The Foreign Affairs Committee will also contact the Latvian envoy to the United Nations, Aivars Baumanis, to find out the anticipated reaction of this international organization to the Latvian application.

### Envoy on Support for Incorporation Into EU

*LD0202200294 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1800 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] It is Germany's duty to promote Latvia's incorporation into the European Union emphasized the new German Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Reinhard Holubek, meeting today with Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs. The envoy noted that Latvia's integration into Europe is currently delayed by the Russian troops. Therefore, Germany supports Latvia's demand for the withdrawal of the troops. Holubek expressed the conviction that, thanks to international pressure, the Russian troops will be withdrawn from Latvia by 31 August this year. Another delaying factor in Latvia's integration into Europe, the envoy believes, is the problem of the Skrunda radar station.

### 1994 Budget Faces Shortfall of 40 Million Lats

*WS0202143494 Tallinn BNS in English 1110 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Riga, Feb 02, BNS—The 1994 budget will fall 40 million lats short in 1994, State Reforms Minister Maris Gailis told reporters Tuesday following a Cabinet meeting.

The government will supplement the budget incomes with 30 million lats of Bank of Latvia's profit payments and cut the administrative reform's fund by 1.2 million lats, Gailis said.

The group also confirmed a plan to form a working party for free trade talks with the European Union and passed for Saeima [parliament] consideration a bill on Latvia's signature to international labor conventions.

The Cabinet failed to accept a resolution on social guarantees for parentless children and regulations on easier public transportation tariffs to certain categories of residents, said government spokesman Sergei Ancupov.

## Lithuania

### President: Country Ready To Adopt NATO Weapons

*LD0202120094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 2 Feb 94 p 4*

[Report by Ivan Andreyev under the "Cooperation" rubric: "Lithuania Switches to NATO Standards. Authorities Discuss Prospects for Relations With North Atlantic Bloc Experts"]

[Text] A NATO delegation arrived in Vilnius yesterday to hold consultations with the Lithuanian leaders, who signed the "Partnership for Peace" program last week.

Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of a coalition of right-wing opposition parties in the Lithuanian Seimas, who recently appears to be learning to find a common language with the centrists on matters of ensuring the republic's security, said that he welcomes the authorities' steps, particularly the initiative to hold the consultations. Mr. Landsbergis believes that "recent statements by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, the goings-on in Belarus and its statements addressed to Lithuania give ample reasons to talk about a threat to its territorial integrity."

Vytautas Landsbergis, as usual, did not forget to reproach the Lithuanian authorities for continuing talks with Russia on military transits through Lithuanian territory to Kaliningrad Oblast, which may drag the republic into CIS military cooperation. "Military transport movements to Russia's Baltic enclave," he concluded, "are permissible only on the basis of one-time, not long-term, agreements."

Meanwhile, President Brazauskas said on the eve of the North Atlantic bloc experts' arrival that Lithuania was ready to switch to NATO weapons standards. Until recently, the Lithuanian Republic (unlike Estonia, which has already switched to NATO standards, and Latvia, which has only made statements to that effect) has stated its commitment to weapons standards adopted in Russia upon buying a significant share of military property from the outgoing Russian Army. Now, however, Mr. Brazauskas said, as it signed the "Partnership for Peace" program, Lithuania would have to switch to weapons in service in NATO countries. Funds required for so costly an operation have evidently not yet been found, hence for the time being the government will use the money earmarked for culture, education, and health.

### Delegation Calls Visit 'Fruitful'

*WS0202185894 Tallinn BNS in English 1652 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Vilnius, Feb 02, BNS—Ole Bierring, Denmark's ambassador to NATO, told reporters in Vilnius Wednesday [2 February] that the visit to Lithuania by a NATO delegation that he headed was "fruitful."

The delegation is one of the three that are scheduled to visit several post-communist countries this and next week, to help launch the preparation of individual programs within the framework of NATO's Partnership for Peace agreement.

Bierring said the principal issue at talks in Lithuania were consultations on how to prepare a presentation document, which is the first step toward developing an individual partnership program with NATO. In Lithuania, the delegation held consultations with a special working group that was created immediately after Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas signed up for the partnership plan at the NATO headquarters in Brussels last week.

Albinas Januska, deputy minister of foreign affairs and head of the group, said the presentation document will be ready quite soon. "It is a matter of several months," he said.

"Lithuania is on the way to active participation" in the partnership, Hermann Freiherr von Richthofen, German ambassador to NATO, said, commenting on whether Lithuania is now considered "an active partnership member." According to the Partnership for Peace framework document, NATO will consult with any active participant in the partnership if that partner perceives a direct threat to its territorial integrity, political independence or security.

Januska said Lithuania's goal is absolutely clear - transition from partnership to membership in NATO. Hence, the Lithuanian version of the presentation document will identify the steps that should be taken to achieve this goal, including joint military exercises and changing arms according to NATO standards, he said.

"It is necessary to direct the money that Lithuania spends on defense toward closer cooperation with NATO. Lithuania is not so rich as to spend money on cheap things," Januska said.

Sarunas Vasiliauskas, Lithuanian deputy minister of foreign affairs, said Lithuania is prepared to invest in projects that would meet NATO standards. "A system of air space control would be an example of this."

Januska said Lithuania intends to ask NATO countries to donate some of their arms.

But the visiting NATO officials did not mention any advancement in discussions on possibly donating weapons that must be destroyed according to international agreements.

Colonel Richard Cohen, branch chief of the NATO Military Cooperation, Plans and Policy Division, said the United States and Great Britain earlier cascaded weapons to Turkey, Spain and Portugal. But the colonel doubted whether there is any suitable equipment left for the purpose.

Cohen said, however, that the Baltics might get something through separate agreements with NATO countries.

The NATO delegation leaves for Tallinn Wednesday evening. It also includes Klaus Steinkopff, special assistant to the Supreme Allied Command Europe, and John Barret, representative of the NATO Political Affairs Division.

## Premier Unsatisfied With Pace of Reform

*WS0302101094 Vilnius ELTA in English 2208 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[From "News Bulletin" No. 428]

[Text] Vilnius, Feb 2, ELTA—Speed of the agricultural reform is not satisfying neither to the government nor landowners, Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius told the national radio on Wednesday.

But he added that land was being returned quicker at the moment. He said in 1991-1992, the documents returning the property were handed to 12.6 thousand former landowners and only in 1993—25.2 thousand.

Slezevicius said the reform would be speeded up when local authorities hire enough officials working with the land issues.

## Polish President's Envoy Meets Brazauskas

*LD0202142694 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1100 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Here is Audrius Baciulis reporting from Seimas.

[Baciulis] The meeting of Andrzey Zakrzewski, envoy of the Polish President and secretary of state at the presidential office, and the Polish delegation headed by him with President Algirdas Brazauskas was planned for 45 minutes, however, the diplomats spent more than an hour at the president's office.

Andrzey Zakrzewski told the journalists that the discussion was about the signing of the Lithuanian-Polish interstate treaty, and about coming closer to this objective.

However, the state secretary said, we do not define friendly relations between the states and nations by treaties alone. What is important is that even without this treaty, Lithuanian-Polish relations today are already good.

When asked whether the declaration would be signed together with the treaty, Andrzey Zakrzewski answered that he had no powers to decide this. He said that he had proposed several new formulations of several articles of the treaty to the Lithuanian side which had been prepared by the new Polish foreign minister.

Iwo Buszatski, deputy foreign minister, stressed that although the minister of foreign affairs in Poland was new, Polish foreign policy remained unchanged, if only perhaps some matters were being dealt with more speedily. We must not think that a breakthrough in the process of negotiations can be reached in several hours of negotiations, Andrzey Zakrzewski said. However, he said, common thinking was demonstrated by both sides aspiring to sign the treaty as soon as possible. He admitted that during the talks with Algirdas Brazauskas historic issues were touched upon as well, and here he immediately quoted Lech Walesa' words saying that the history must not (?suppress) the future. According to Andrzey Zakrzewski, this formula was regarded rather favorably by the Lithuanian side.

Immediately after the meeting the envoy of the Polish president will inform Lech Walesa about the results of the meeting. He also confirmed that the invitation for the Lithuanian negotiation delegation to come to Warsaw was still valid and that it will be given a warm welcome there. He said that this also applied to the Lithuanian president if he wished to visit Warsaw. This is Audrius Baciulis from Seimas.

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